Horticultural Society

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, THE FARM AND THE GARDEN, THE FIRESIDE, RURAL LIFE, LITERATURE, USEFUL ARTS, NEWS, &c.

AND NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURE.

JOURNAL OF

VOLUME XXXVIII:::NO. 19. BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1879. WHOLE NUMBER 1935.

MASSACHUSETTS PLOUGHMAN AND NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE.

Official Organ of the N. E. Agricultural Society

ISSUED WEEKLY AT "PLOUGHMAN BUILDING,"

No. 43 Milk Street, (cor. Devonshire St.,

(Opposite the New Post Office,)

BOSTON.

GEO. NOYES, Proprietor & Publisher.

TERMS—$2.50 per annum in advance. $3.00 if not paid in advance. Single copies SIX CENTS.

☞ No paper discontinued except at the option of the publisher, until all arrearages are paid.

☞ The PLOUGHMAN offers great advantages to advertisers. Its circulation is large, and among the most active and intelligent portion of the community.

TERMS OF ADVERTISING.—One square, of eight lines, one insertion, $1.00; each subsequent insertion, 50 cts.

NEWSPAPER DECISIONS.

1. If any person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount whether it is taken from the office or not.

2. According to law, papers may be forwarded until an explicit order to discontinuance is received; and whether taken by the subscriber or not from the place where they are deposited, he is accountable for the pay until he orders a discontinuance and pays what is due.

☞ Postage on the PLOUGHMAN is 20 cents a year within the United States.

Editorial.

FEBRUARY ON THE FARM.

This is a comparatively leisure month. It is a good time to read a little, and attend the Farmers' Club, but do the chores first. Chopping wood will occupy a good deal of time, for it isn't worth while to leave off work in the busy months of summer to haul and cut wood to keep the pot boiling. It's a good plan to keep at least a year's stock of wood all piled under cover, and the best time to do this work is just now, before spring's work begins.

Stock, of course, needs careful attention now-a-days. We don't believe in exposing it to cold driving storms. Shelter in this climate is essential to thrift, and no enterprising farmer will neglect to provide it. If the yard is on the sunny side of the barn, cattle may be let out during a considerable part of our milder days, but we think farmers, as a general thing, expose them a good deal more than is needed for exercise and health. We would keep them up especially through the colder days, and if we could conveniently avoid turning them out to water in the coldest days, we would do so. The appetite is sharp now, and even the poorer qualities of meadow hay will be eaten with a relish, while the high cost of hay makes it necessary to exercise economy in feeding. Some farmers cut and mix their coarse hay, corn stalks, or straw, and moisten it with hot water, using a little bran or shorts to give it a relish. There is considerable work in this, and some expense, but, on the other hand, a good deal of stuff that would otherwise be wasted, is made palatable if not positively nutritious, and considering that other work is not very driving now, we incline to think a little extra care and attention pays well in the thrift of the stock. Besides corn butts cut up fine work better in the manure.

Sheep ought to have access to water, and if they have not they eat snow, which is injurious to them. Many farmers neglect to furnish it regularly, under the supposition that they do not require it. They need good shelter too. Breeding ewes ought to be fed up a little better as the winter advances. A few roots, now and then, are greedily eaten at this season of the year, and we think it very important that they should have them.

Hens will do better if kept in a warm and roomy poultry house. Those who take the most pains with them say they should have some fresh meat at this season, some pounded bones, and sand or gravel to roll in. They say by this treatment they can be made to lay in winter nearly as well as in summer.

There are fences which can be fixed up during our milder winter days. Get cut posts and rails if they are liable to be needed; fork over and prepare the manure if you have a cellar to work it in, get it out, if it can be done, and spread it on land where it is to be used. If the land is frozen it will be less likely to be poached and cut up by the cattle and carts.

Don't try to spread the manure and the labor of the farm over too much surface. It is better to go over less ground and do it well. It is tempting, perhaps, in these times, to do a great business and cover a wide surface with cultivated crops; but the actual profit is made on more concentrated work. Do well what you undertake, if any profit is expected from it.

Now is the time, too, to put the farm tools in order, if they are not already so. If a plough needs fixing, get it done before the time comes to use it. If the tools are old and worn, replace them with better. Are they too high, and do you think you'll make the old ones do? Remember that a very small degree of improvement, by means of which only a little more work can be accomplished per day, will make a great difference through the season. You've got to have a close and minute oversight of all the operations of the farm if you expect to have things go straight, and so it becomes quite important that the plans of farm management should now be carefully and fully matured. Do all the head work you can now. Get the whole course of farming for the season laid out in your mind or in black and white.

All of us have a little time for mental cultivation now, and the best books, especially the best books on farming, ought now to be carefully studied. A good idea, got from a well written book, may often be turned to great account practically on the farm. Fill up the time with something useful, therefore, and not let the golden moments slip by without being well filled up with something useful.

INSECTS AND VERMIN.

Le Cultivateur, a French journal, says that if chloride of lime be spread on the soil or near plants, insects and vermin will not be found there, and adds: "By its means plants will easily be protected from insect pigues by simply brushing over their stems with a solution of it. It has often been noticed that a patch of land which has been treated in this way remains religiously respected by grubs, while the unprotected beds round are literally devastated. Fruit trees may be guarded from the attacks of grubs by attaching to their trunks pieces of tow, smeared with a mixture of chloride of lime and hog's lard, and ants and grubs already in possession will rapidly vacate their position. Butterflies, again, will avoid all plants whose leaves have been sprinkled over with lime water."

MASSACHUSETTS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Massachusetts may well be proud of the history of her State College. In 1863 Governor Andrew eloquently urged that the funds derived from the national land grant should be given to Harvard College for the increase of the Bussey Fund. The Board of Agriculture, however, steadfastly persisted in the idea of an independent institution, and the excellent results demonstrate the wisdom of their views. While the Bussey Institution has registered eight students the past year, the State College has had one hundred and sixty-two. It was properly supposed that Boston was hardly the location a practical man would be likely to select for the education of his son for the quiet life of a farmer. At Amherst during the eleven years the average attendance has been one hundred and eleven, and out of a total of six hundred and thirty-seven students, about one-half are now engaged in agricultural pursuits, while all have been instructed in the theory and practice of farming.

The trustees and faculty of our College deserve great credit for their unwavering adherence to the original plan of organization, and to a uniform course of study and training, notwithstanding the vast amount of abuse and ridicule bestowed upon them by ignorant critics. The general system of the College was fixed by law under the direction of Presidents French and Chadbourne with the approval of the governor and council, and has never been materially modified. The name "Agricultural" has not only been retained, but has been rendered respectable, and is regarded, the world over, as characteristic of the institution.

In Michigan, by earnest effort, the same result has been nobly achieved, while Pennsylvania has ignominiously given up the fight and substituted the word "State" for "Agricultural." In Ohio the board of trustees has been repeatedly changed by acts of successive legislatures. At first there were nineteen trustees chosen; this board was thought to be unwieldy, and the number was reduced to five; this small number could not suit all the wise men and newspaper critics and was therefore increased to twenty; but the last legislature, with a view apparently of bringing things to a focus, discharged them all and authorized the governor to appoint the magical number, seven, and changed the name from "Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College" to "Ohio State University." This institution has land, buildings and educational appliances valued at half a million dollars, and receives an annual income from the State treasury of thirty thousand dollars. The total number of graduates is six, against one hundred and fifty from our College. Has not Massachusetts some reason to be satisfied in view of these facts?

The Massachusetts College has from the beginning carried out the requirements of the land grant act more perfectly than any other institution endowed by it. The three departments of scientific and literary culture, agricultural science and practice, and military science and tactics, have each received due consideration, and all candidates for a diploma have been required to take one uniform course of study and training, including manual labor. The trustees and faculty have always been ambitious to impart the best possible education, and have provided all the facilities which their means would allow. They have considered themselves the appointed agents of the Commonwealth, to do the work prescribed in the charter of the College, and have done it to the best of their ability. They have encountered many obstacles, as all pioneers must; they have made some mistakes, as all mortals do; and they have courageously hoped for results not yet fully realized. Among the fond expectations doomed to disappointment may be named that of seeing the College self-sustaining after the liberal action of the legislature of 1871. With the financial crash and depression which soon after occurred, and from which relief comes so slowly, the number of students diminished and the ability of wealthy friends vanished. Hence it became impossible to go on without annual aid from the legislature, or the incurring of debt. Every year the real state of the case was clearly presented to the general court, but the hard times affected the hearts of the legislators, and they often turned a deaf ear to the appeal for an appropriation. Still no legislature ventured to change the plan of the College, and so it has fortunately been preserved to this day. When the number of students had been reduced far below the usual average, simply because the people could not afford to pay for the education offered, the trustees in 1878 determined to try the experiment of free tuition and cheap board. The result was that more than one hundred candidates appeared for admission and every room was filled. If the same policy be continued another year the number of students will be limited only by the accommodations which may be provided. If the legislature will grant a reasonable permanent income for the College and throw it open to the sons of Massachusetts without charge for tuition, the citizens of Amherst will gladly erect convenient boarding houses in its immediate neighborhood and thus double its capacity for usefulness. Is it better to appropriate money for the exhibition of trotting horses, or for the practical education of the people? Shall we have a better and more useful College, or allow an institution that has cost a million dollars to fall into decay and disrepute for want of a trivial sum of money?

For the proper maintenance of its three departments, including the management and improvement of the farm and the work of a first class Experimental Station, the College should have a fixed annual income of twenty-five thousand dollars. The trustees then having a definite adequate sum for expenditure, could make such plans as would enable them to perform satisfactorily the duty assigned them. They should in this case be required to adopt a more systematic mode of farming, to give free tuition to students from Massachusetts, and to incur no expenses beyond their actual and certain receipts. By great economy they would be able with the above income, to pay the salaries of a few superior officers, keep all the grounds and buildings in good condition, and make every year some desirable improvements. The College, thus provided for, would hardly fail to be flourishing, popular and eminently helpful to the agricultural interests of the Commonwealth.

But, granting all this, from what source shall the necessary funds be derived? There can be no doubt that the money might be taken with decided advantage to the Commonwealth from one or all of the great departments of State which the College represents, and for which liberal appropriations are annually made,—namely, the Educational, the Agricultural and the Military. With a surplus of teachers, begging for situations at any price, is it more important to maintain five Normal Schools and a Normal Art School, with free tuition, than to have one good Agricultural College? With twenty-eight Agricultural Societies, each receiving six hundred dollars bounty for the support of annual fairs, many of which are very insignificant and which, from their excessive number and close proximity, really damage each other, may it not be possible that a portion of this money could be better expended for the benefit of agriculture? Might not the College with a model farm, an experimental station and a good corps of teachers, be more beneficial to the farming community? With a militia system costing nearly one hundred and fifty thousand dollars per annum, is it certain that the continuous, thorough, military education of two hundred young men by a West Point graduate at Amherst is unworthy of support from the State? Finally, would anybody be seriously harmed if ten per cent. of the surplus dog fund, now returned to towns for educational or library purposes, and amounting to about one hundred thousand dollars, were paid over by the county officials to the Massachusetts Agricultural College? It is clearly the duty of the legislature to give these matters careful consideration and to take such action as the circumstances demand.

RAISING CORN.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

I have noticed through the columns of the *Ploughman*, some inquiry in relation to the crop of corn raised last season by G. W. Dean of Danbury. As I have been a laborer on the farm where the corn was raised for the past ten years, I will endeavor to answer the inquiry so far as I am able in regard to the general treatment of the soil, manures and fertilizers. Before attempting to make a statement of the method of preparing the soil for planting, I will briefly make mention of the amount of neat stock kept on the farm of said Mr. Dean. Fourteen horses, (including *Gen. Lyon*) twenty-nine head of cattle, mostly grown up, and one hundred and twenty-five sheep. During the summer season from two to four horses are stabled, and the manure is deposited in the cellar beneath where they stand; composted one load of muck to the same quantity of horse manure, with plenty of hogs to work the same. This deposit remains over winter in the barn cellar until spring.

The manure dropped from the cattle is hauled on to the land near where it is to be used in the winter and deposited in heaps from twenty to twenty-five loads for use in the spring. Lot No. 1, greensward, ploughed mostly in the fall; depth of ploughing intended to be eight inches. The manure applied was thirty loads per acre, thirty bushels per load. The manure was spread broadcast and thoroughly harrowed in with a common spike tooth harrow. The variety of corn planted was called Northumberland, which grows from twelve to sixteen rows. This lot was much injured by the frost in the spring, so, therefore, the yield was comparatively much less than that which was not injured by the frost. The other lots, Nos. 2, 3 and 4, were planted the year previous, partly to potatoes, corn and fodder corn, and the same manured about twenty-five loads per acre. The last mentioned lots had the same quantity of manure as lot No. 1, as near as could be judged, spread on in the spring and ploughed in about four inches deep, well pulverized in preparation for planting. There was no manure purchased to be put on said land. The fertilizer used was Coe's superphosphate, excepting a small quantity of hen manure on one acre. Expense of phosphate per acre, $5.50. No other fertilizers were used whatever. The corn was planted three feet and six inches between the rows and three feet between the hills. It was hoed twice during the season. When the corn became ripe enough, it was cut and shocked and remained in the field until sufficiently dried to husk and put into the cribs. The average yield per acre, excepting lot No. 1, was one hundred and thirty bushels of ears of corn per acre. Estimated weight of fodder per acre, two and one-half tons, at low figures, is worth, well cured, five dollars per ton. I have given a statement in relation to manure, fertilizers, etc. Any one may form their own conclusions whether it pays to raise corn or not.

From a constant reader, J. W. S.
Danbury, N. H., Jan. 26, 1879.

THE PIG BUSINESS AT THE MASS. AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Editor Massachusetts Ploughman:

Perhaps it will not be uninteresting to the subscribers of the *Ploughman* to read a brief account of the pig business at the college.

At the time I commenced my work, April 1st, 1876, here at the College, there was nothing of value in this department for breeding purposes, consequently I have had all the material to purchase with which to build up the business. Without giving description of animals bought I will briefly give the amount of outlay for stock and the cash sales to January 28, 1879. To be sure I have bought to advantage, as the figures will show, and have disposed of animals as best I could.

My cash outlay is ninety-four dollars and fifty cents for stock to breed from, and my cash sales from this outlay is one thousand one hundred and twenty-nine dollars, or a gain of 1,094 44-63 *per cent.* To make the statement complete of course the cost of feed should be brought in to show the net profit, but as no hogs are fattened and only enough fed to keep the animals in good store condition the cost must be very small. For instance, the principal feed the past few months has been unsalable apples.

In summer the most they eat is grass. Our stock now is made up entirely of registered Berkshires, with the model breeder Lady Tempest No. 4,026 B. R. and the boar Sambo, Jr., No. 2247, B. R. at the head.

We have some sows sired by the celebrated Vulcan No. 437 B. R. that are almost perfection. Vulcan's sire was Smithereen, and his dam, Watch, was sired by the celebrated "Othello," the sire of the entire Sambo and Sallie families.

A. A. SOUTHWICK, *Farm Supt.*

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

SMALL FRUITS AND THEIR ENEMIES.

BY F. J. KINNEY.

NUMBER IV.

As the season for setting out new plantations of small fruits is approaching, a little talking up of the subject will conduce to the comfort and happiness, and perhaps to the income of some of your numerous families.

First, comes the strawberry as a fresh fruit to our market, and the varieties are getting almost too numerous to mention. Almost every grower has as much as one new variety every year, and there are hundreds of people who are making it a business to originate new varieties. All this is well, but the new beginner needs to study and learn his lesson well at the outset, or he will lose much valuable time, trying worthless varieties.

It is a well known fact that but very few of the hundreds of famous (famous in the eyes of their originators, and perhaps deservedly so) strawberries are of any value to the general cultivator.

There is no fruit or vegetable I have ever grown, that *location* and *soil* made as much difference with, as the strawberry, and there are but very few varieties out of five hundred and over that I have tested that can bring up to near the standard claimed for them by the originator of their productiveness.

Most of the new varieties are sent out on size and merit. I never yet have seen a very large berry that was very productive or very nice. The year that the Charles Downing was sent out, I secured ten new varieties, and it was all that I fruited for more than two years. The next season we had twenty and did not keep any; the next thirty, and not one was up to the Downing, so they all went under; the next season I only tried ten that originated outside of our own grounds, and over one hundred of our own seedlings, and only retained our No. 10, and this was the first berry that with us was as profitable as the Wilson's Albany, that we discarded when I took the Downing and it; the No. 10 is only good under favorable circumstances; it needs a heavy loam and an abundance of potash, and then it is a hard berry to beat for a *late* market berry.

In 1876 we tried fifty more varieties of our own and others, and only retained the Monarch of the West and the Eclipse. I think the Monarch will push the Downing hard, like it, any *soil* will do, and the richer the more and the better fruit, if the vines are kept properly thinned; being more firm and ripening its crop quicker, it will suit many who want to ship some distance better than Downing, and is a better flavored berry, though not so productive with us.

The Eclipse is one of my seedlings, and a very fine berry, coming very early and lasting many weeks; is the sweetest and highest flavored strawberry we have ever grown, but although very productive on our grounds, I don't expect it will prove so on light soil, one of its parents being Jucunda.

In 1867 we only took two new varieties, neither of which came up to our expectations; one we have rooted up, and the Great American, not having a fair chance, we have retained for another year. I expect it to be a desirable *garden* berry, but not for the general cultivator.

We have on trial the Forest Rose, and Sharpless, and many more new varieties, that come out backed by many premiums, and as the Chinaman says "muchee talkee," but neither affects us very much now; we have been *sold* too many times, still I believe in new seedlings of every thing; and in giving them all a fair trial; only not discard our old and tried friends until we are sure we have a better; it will come in time.

Much damage has been done to strawberry cultivation, and the old and best varieties, by not using plants for *new* plantations, *grown* on *new* plantations.

Vines that have borne a crop of berries are in poor condition to produce good new plants. I am told that the time has been, when if a person had good plants and good land they were sure of a good crop of berries. It was before my experience. The first 1000 strawberry plants I ever set, after nursing them all summer and fighting several different kinds of insects, I had sixty plants left in the fall. It was an old pasture and I consoled myself with the thought that when they had been cultivated a few years, the corn worm or larva of the May beetle, and other worms and insects would disappear, but the facts are that in spite of all effort, the worms and bugs get more than their share yet. Last, and though least in point of size, not so in their capacity for destroying a crop, comes a black beetle that I shall call the *strawberry flea* until I have a better name. I first made his acquaintance in the fall of 1877. From whence they came I know not; but it seems to me they must be born of the decomposed or partially decomposed strawberry plants. They appeared on an old bed where the strawberry plants had but just been ploughed under, (say four weeks) and eat up a lot of new plants set out in September. I had been in the habit of setting out that way with good results, but the flea destroyed the plants before we hardly found it out.

I had a Jucunda bed that had borne a very fine crop of berries, and I cleaned out the weeds and covered it as usual with a good mulch of coarse hay expecting a large crop the next or last season. In the course of the *early winter* the beetles devoured *every tender leaf* on the *old hills*, and the hills were as large as a peck measure. There never had been one seen here before, and this field was fifty rods from the other one. Come to set out our plants last spring on every bed where had been strawberries the year before, there were the beetles in swarms and I commenced studying their habits.

I soon found that the male was small and active compared to the female, being about twice as large as the turnip flea and resembling it, and being furnished with a good set of wings to fly with.

The female was longer and heavier built, and wingless, except the covers. I never in the whole season have seen her on any plant or leaf but the strawberry, and for weeks only found her in the ground under the strawberry leaves, and amongst the roots.

I finally hunted her with a lantern, and by using the utmost caution discovered her feeding in the night on the leaves. There would be from five or six to fifty to a hill, the first I would know of their attack, and about equally divided at first, male and female; but the males soon scattered and eat the more tender blackberry and raspberry leaves, peach-tree leaves, and any and all tender leaves. There were legions of them and we fought them constantly.

We soon found that although we could keep the flea off the leaf, the plant pined; and upon examining the roots we found the little larva or grub devouring the fibrous roots and boring into the stems of the plant; in fact they seemed more voracious than their parents.

We seem to have about all there are in this immediate neighborhood this season, but have had them at Whitinsville two or three years and they have destroyed several beds.

Have you, or any of your readers made their acquaintance?

The Farm.

KEEP THE BOYS ON THE FARM.

[B. G. P. in Country Gentleman.]

It is a fact but too evident, that a majority of our farmers' sons, in coming to young manhood or even sooner, are looking out for some other employment or profession than that pursued by their fathers. If they can only get off the farm, only go to the city and engage in almost any kind of business, no matter how small the pay or how high the cost of living, it seems to be infinitely preferred to life on the farm. That this is the case, is to be deplored. Is it the fault of the business itself? Is farming as a business so uninviting, so laborious, so trying to a person mentally and physically, so devoid of pleasure as to leave it the least to be desired of all the occupations that can be engaged in? Is it so much more agreeable to stand behind a counter and measure off tape, or to hold a clerkship in a government office, than it is to be a farmer? Ex-Senator Chandler had something wise to say about farming as well as something significant about politics, when he addressed his neighbors at his farm in Michigan. "If I had a boy," he exclaimed, "I would rather put him on an eighty acre farm that had never had a plough or axe on it, than place him in the best government office in the land." These remarks from a man who knows what he is talking about, should be remembered. It is an item for restless farmer lads to ponder over.

The fault is *not* with the business itself, but in the *manner* in which many farmers conduct it, and the way in which they bring their sons up. I cannot better express my ideas of the way in which this should be done, in order that the boys may stay on the farm, and continue the business, esteeming it to be (as it really is), one of the most healthful, ennobling, enjoyable and profitable employments they can enter, than by quoting still farther from the Senator's remarks. He continued:

"Make your homes pleasant, make them so attractive that your sons and daughters will love their homes better than any other place on earth. Make this business of farming so agreeable that your sons will see that it is the most healthful and profitable occupation in which they can engage. Build good houses, and buy good implements. Do not keep the old cracked stove, but put in a good range. In fact, have every convenience that you can so that your wives and daughters will deem it a pleasure to perform their household work. In this way you can bring up your sons and daughters on the farm; but when you make the home repulsive, you drive them into clerkships and other menial positions when they ought to be God's anointed lords of creation."

This is plain common sense. Let us make home pleasant, and the farm work less laborious, by the introduction of improved machinery and methods of culture; get the boys interested, giving them a share in the profits as well as in the labor; consult them in regard to farm management, and thus show them that you consider them something more than the animals to get work out of; give them an occasional holiday, excursion or picnic; allow them to associate with other young people and give an occasional party if they wish it; get the girls an organ or piano, and the boys a top buggy. Let them see that life on the farm is not, or need not be, continual drudgery. Give them these pleasures; it will do them good, and even make the old folks feel young again. Times are changed. Things are not as they were forty years ago when you were young. It has not, however, been long since the writer was a boy. He has "been there," and "knows how it is himself," and what children need to make them love the farm.

DR. LORING'S FARM.

This farm contains about 430 acres; 125 under cultivation, 245 pasture land, and the balance marsh; two barns, one 36x100, the other 42x150 feet, each 20-foot post; eighty splendid cows and heifers, mostly Ayrshires, and twenty-three horses and colts, among them the white mare that Parson Murray describes as the "perfect horse," now 21 years old. His stock horse Conway is the sire of most of the colts and among them are several very fine ones. He has one pair of working oxen that weigh 7300 pounds; 275 tons of hay, and 700 bushels root crops. Four men in winter and seven in summer do the work. John G. Page is the foreman, and keeps the place in fine condition.

☞ Too much can hardly be said, says an exchange, in praise of onions for fowls. They are a preventive of and a remedy for many diseases to which domestic fowls are liable. For gapes, onions are the best things that can be fed. The *Stock Journal* recommends giving fowls as many as they will eat, chopped fine, as often as three times a week.

☞ The *North British Agriculturist* says that arrangements have been perfected for shipping live stock from the United States and Canada, which, if carried out in their entirety, will glut the English market. Several of the new steamers forming the line have made their first voyage.

THE "ECLIPSE" STRAWBERRY.

Representing a hill as Photographed—Berries One-fourth Size—Berries at side Full Size.

The Poultry Interest.

FEEDING FOR EGGS.

[Country Gentleman.]

Americans, as a people, are too hurrying; too much haste and not enough dispatch marks our movements; we are an impatient, nervous, excitable people. Our British cousins are slow, cool, calm and deliberate, moving with caution and precision, counting the cost at the outset. We too often enter upon enterprises, and follow out calculations that prove utter failures. We do not rely sufficiently on our own powers, but are too often led astray following the examples of one another. Because one has entered upon a pursuit and become successful in it, a hundred others in every direction endeavor to do likewise and fail. The successful ones are the exceptions. As a branch of business, or rather pursuit, in conjunction with other business, the keeping of poultry has crept in as a means of money-getting, whereas it was formerly done for pleasure and home benefit. A desire to rear and keep fancy poultry, for the sake of fabulous prices, has arisen among all classes. Of course a desire for eggs, and winter eggs, too, has come along with the fever, yet in spite of all our efforts the commodity fails us when the prices range the highest. Here our impatience crops out. We change our manner of feeding, and the feed itself, daily; and yet we are farther from the desired object than before, not considering that fowls require time to become accustomed to any marked change. If laying fowls have been accustomed to a run at large, and to open weather, a sudden change to a lower temperature that enforces confinement will almost immediately decrease the yield of eggs for many weeks. Any sudden change of feed affects them likewise, and yet change is desirable and necessary, only do not look for the eggs immediately after the change. The feed is first taken into the system and wholly combined with it, before it can be returned in eggs.

A sudden change from one kind of grain to another will generally stop hens from laying for a short period, yet it is necessary for the health of fowls in confinement. Greater care should be extended in this respect, toward young pullets in particular, more especially in confinement, and with pullets that come into laying at an early age. When at large there is no danger as the exercise and vegetable matter thus obtained ward off any disposition to over-fatness, which creates disease. Whole corn is hard to digest, and requires more strength than a laying pullet in confinement can afford to expend. Hens stuffed with corn, and kept in idleness, acquire bad habits, and become worthless.

A regular system of feeding and course of management should be adopted at the commencement of winter, and steadily adhered to throughout. So long as the birds keep in health, and improve daily in looks, be assured that your system is correct, and eggs will be forthcoming. It is necessary to feed many weeks ahead for eggs. Hens are eggproducers, and will certainly perform their duty if their keeper be faithful and patient, but do not look for many eggs before February or March.

The Dairy.

MAKING CREAM CHEESE.

The *London Dairyman* gives the following directions for making this variety of cheese which is in great repute in England:

Take a quart of cream, and if not desired to be very rich, add thereto one pint of new milk; warm it in hot water till it is about the heat of milk from the cow, add a tablespoonful of rennet, let it stand till thick; then break slightly with a spoon, and place it in the frame in which you have previously put a fine canvas cloth; press it lightly with a weight; let it stand a few hours, then put a finer cloth in the frame, and shift the cheese into it. Sprinkle a little salt over the cloth. It will be fit for use in a day or two. To make a rich cream cheese without rennet, take any quantity of cream and put it into a wet cloth, tie it up and hang it in a cool place for seven or eight days. Then take it from the cloth and put it into a mould in another cloth with a weight upon it for two or three days longer. Turn twice a day, and it will be fit for use. Or, take a quart of fresh cream and a pint of warm new milk, a bit of sugar, and a little rennet. Set near the fire till the curd comes; fill a vat made in the form of a brick, of wheat straw or rushes sewn together, rest the vat on a square of straw or rushes, and cover it with another square, the vat being open top and bottom. Next day take it out, turn daily till dry, from one board to another, cover with nettles or clean dock leaves, and put between two pewter plates to ripen.

MILK vs. MEAT.

[British Live Stock Journal.]

For years past the milk-producing power of cows has diminished very greatly. There appears to be a sort of natural opposition between those improvements in our breeds of cattle which favor the production of meat, and that condition of body that is most favorable for the yield of milk. The reason is not difficult to discover. The improvements we establish in cattle, although they accomplish the special object we desire, and render those animals most economical producers of meat, are, after all, departures from the natural character, and they make these cattle more tender and delicate in constitution. They do not retain that vigor which distinguished the unimproved breeds from which they have been obtained, consequently the laws of animal life make themselves felt, and difficulties arise in breeding from these improved cattle. It is also observed in practice, that any course of procedure which weakens the breeding powers equally affects the production of milk. There is a natural connection between these two functions, and, as a rule, our best milkers are not our best fattening animals. The alterations produced in our improved breeds have given a strong tendency for the formation of fat and flesh, and in these animals we have a vigorous influence seeking to use the nutriment in the blood for that purpose; at the same time the tendency to form milk is weak.

Stock Department.

ACREAGE REQUIRED FOR A COW.

[Scientific Farmer.]

How much land is required for the support of a cow? This question depends for an answer so much on circumstances of the soil as not to admit of a very definite answer. In a dairy competition in Jefferson county, N. Y., in 1857, the first prize dairy, of sixteen cows, was kept on thirty acres of land; the second premium dairy, of eighteen cows on sixty acres; the third dairy, of thirteen cows, on thirty acres; the fourth, of twenty-nine cows, on fifty-five acres; the fifth, of twenty-eight cows, on ninety acres. Mr. Schull, of Little Falls, N. Y., estimates the land in pasturage and hay requisite for the support of a cow, three acres; and this is the estimate of Mr. Carrington for moderately good dairy farms in England. In Belgium, ten acres of land support two cows, one heifer, and one yearling or calf; but, when the calves are sold off young, and cows in full milk only are kept, the proportion is two cows to seven and one-half acres. Colman estimates three acres of pasture as requisite for a cow in Berkshire county, Mass., while in some towns two acres of pasturage are sufficient. Mr. Farrington, in the report of the American Dairymen's Association, thinks that, on the average, four acres are required per cow for summer and winter keep; while Mr. X. A. Willard thinks that, in Herkimer county, N. Y., one and one-half or two acres of pasture per cow will answer, and, in some exceptional cases, one acre.

EARLY MATURITY FOR PROFIT.

[Prof. Manly Miles, Lansing, Mich.]

It is important to secure animals for feeding that mature early—that is, that are capable of being fattened while young, and acquiring that ripe and firm condition of flesh that pleases the butcher, and brings in the market the highest possible price. The greatest rate of increase, and the largest return of food consumed, can only be obtained by feeding young animals that develop rapidly, and these are the conditions that give the best profits on food consumed, and on the labor expended in fitting the animal for market.

The Sheepfold.

PROFIT IN KEEPING SHEEP.

The following is by a correspondent of the *Rural New Yorker:*

An excellent farmer told me this year that for every sheep he kept he sold, in lambs and wool, an average of five dollars' worth per head. He said also that his sheep paid him better than anything else grown on the farm. Five dollars are nearly ten cents per week, and during the pasture season sheep can be kept at a cost of two to four cents per week. In the winter the cost is a little more; but if bean straw or other coarse fodder be freely used, winter keep need not be very expensive, and the manure would be worth a large part of the cost of feeding. I am not so clear about the profit in summering sheep. Where a farmer has a large amount of rough land unsuited to cultivation, sheep will utilize it better than any other stock, provided the land is not wet as well as rough. On low or swampy lands sheep will not do well, are liable to foot-rot and other diseases. But if the farmer has only clover pasture, let him beware of sheep. Either he must feed so light as to get little benefit from his pasture, or he will ruin the young clover—and he may do both. Sheep and clover both improve the farm, but they will not do it together. One neutralizes the other. That "the foot of the sheep is golden," is a proverb only true when pastures are filled with natural grasses and the herbage is made sweeter and richer from being kept closely cropped. *

Five-dollars-per-head sales from a flock of sheep pre-suppose a good many ewes, nearly quite as many lambs as sheep and a good market for them. My friend this year sold lambs at $3.63 per head and wool at $1.50. Not all the lambs were sold, the ewes being saved for breeding and about as many old sheep fattened in the winter as were saved of ewe lambs. To get such a price for lambs, they must be good ones. A full-blood Cotswold buck is used. As the ewe lambs are saved, the second cross is three-quarter blood, and the third is seven-eighths. Lambs even of the half cross are very strong, thrifty and heavy for their age. They are commonly dropped in February and March. This requires close watching and warm quarters in cold and stormy weather; but with these there is usually little loss, often less than farmers suffer who have ordinary lambs dropped in April or May. The grade of the Cotswold buck on the common native sheep, is hardier than the thoroughbred. They need better feed than the common native lambs; but they pay well for all they get. It will pay them well to have a field of winter rye to turn on early in the Spring, after the weather becomes warm—better still if some grain is given to the ewe to stimulate her flow of milk, and as soon as the lamb is old enough to eat, to increase its size. Young lambs will begin to nibble at oats when two or three weeks old and will soon learn to eat greedily. Only a very little is needed in addition to the dam's milk. The larger the lamb, the higher the price per pound. This is an unvarying rule, be the price high or low. I know no way in which a little grain will pay so surely and so well as if fed to young lambs. Unless extra feed is given to the mother at least, early dropped Cotswold grade lambs are apt to become stunted and will never fully recover.

WEANING PIGS.

The following plan was furnished for weaning pigs by a New Jersey farmer;

When the pigs are of the proper age to be taken from the sow, shut them up in the pen in the morning; let them out a little while at noon, and again at evening. The second day let them out only at morning and evening, keeping them up at night. On the third day let them out at noon for the last time.

While doing this let them have all the slop they want, but refuse the mother everything except scant feeds of corn and water. This will insure the sow's drying up at once, and without any evil effect.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

CROSS-BREEDING CATTLE.

ARTICLE NUMBER II.

Grade Milch Cows.

It has become a common remark among breeders and dairymen that grade milch cows, half-bloods, are nearly, and sometimes quite as good, and even superior, to thoroughbreds, for dairy purposes. This has been claimed for crosses of all the foreign breeds imported hither from Great Britain and Europe. This has been demonstrated by the importations from Holland, Switzerland and the Channel Islands as well as Great Britain. Half-bloods of the black and white cattle from Holland, have been seen in the neighborhood of Boston that very closely resembled imported thoroughbreds, and which in some cases gave more milk, and held out as well in their milk production as thoroughbreds. In further confirmation of this it may be stated, that at a sale by auction where thoroughbreds and grades were offered for sale, the latter purchased, not for breeding purposes, but for milk, outsold the former in price. The same has been found true of Shorthorns, Ayrshires, Jerseys, Guernseys, Devons and other foreign breeds.

In the towns of Barre, Hardwick, New Braintree, Shelburne, Deerfield and others in Massachusetts, Wilmington and others in Vermont, many towns in Central New York, comprising the dairy sections of Herkimer and Oneida Counties, and some of the dairy sections of Illinois, grade Shorthorn cows are preferred to any other cross. The writer has seen in the sections referred to the finest herds of milch cows that he has ever seen, comprising both good looks and economy. The production of milk from the amount of feed consumed is greater from Shorthorn grades and Holland grades than any other cows he has ever seen. From many years of careful observation he is fully persuaded that no other breed or race of cattle imported from Europe or Great Britain has done so much to improve the quality and productiveness of cattle-husbandry, as the Shorthorns have done. It has been said of the farmer who introduced the first Shorthorn bull into the town of Barre that he was entitled to a pension, in consequence of the great improvement of stock thus inaugurated. Barre and New Braintree have been long and especially noted for their fine herds of dairy cows and their splendid cheese. In Barre is a fine herd of grade Shorthorn cows, bred in that line for nearly half a century, begun by using a Shorthorn bull with a herd of good native cows, such as good dairymen were wont to select for their own use. In that section are many similar dairies, begun and bred in like manner. Some dairymen in that section have introduced bulls of the black and white dairy stock of Holland, crossing them on grade Shorthorn cows, with advantage as they claim, but denied by others, who stick to the grade Shorthorns as good enough for them, and more than doubting the claims of their neighbors who have changed as aforesaid. The grade Shorthorn cow is not only a good milker, and a good breeder of veal calves, but also of heifers to replenish the herd, and when too advanced to keep longer for these purposes, is a quick feeder and makes good beef. As for beauty and usefulness, these old farmers of thirty, forty and fifty years of careful experience and observation, say that grade Shorthorn milch cows cannot be beaten. Their good estates seem to confirm the correctness of their judgment, for they have improved their homes, their farms and their cattle, and are well off in the good things of this world, and seem to have as little to distract their minds in preparing for a future life as any of the industrial classes.

GRADE WORKING OXEN.

Some experience and much more of observation have taught the writer that grades make good working oxen, whether the Devon, Hereford, or Shorthorn bull be used for the cross. The Devon grades are said to be the quickest travellers on the road and workers on the farm. Herefords and Shorthorn grades are larger than the Devon grades, and make the heaviest working oxen the farmer raises. They are kind, patient, and tractable under the yoke. It was reported a few years ago by the quarrymen in Connecticut, that grade Shorthorns were the most profitable oxen to buy, work and then to fatten for beef, of any they had ever tried. The farmers in Franklin County, west, in the towns of Deerfield, Shelburne, and others on the right bank of the Connecticut river, give the preference to grade Shorthorns for working oxen and for stall-feeding. They formerly made large exhibitions of working oxen at the annual Cattle Shows, a feature then of special interest among farmers and their sons. This is still done at some of the County fairs in Maine. Working oxen are going out of use in the older towns, and horses are used in their stead. This has introduced a discussion as to which is the better economy for the farmer to use for his team work on the farm, oxen or horses. The advocates for oxen claim for them growth and quick feeding quality for beef when their working days are passed.

Having presented the readers of the *Ploughman* with an outline sketch of cross-breeding and its advantages as to beeves milch cows and working oxen as compared with thoroughbreds, a few suggestions to the young farmer may not be deemed inopportune. Let him begin with well selected natives, or animals without pedigree, as many have done, and select a good bull, bred in a line of good milkers, such as the Princess family of Shorthorns, and so of other breeds or races, as preferred, and breed from none but the best of the kind used, and he will soon have a fine productive herd, whether breeding for meat, milk or work.

This discussion answers a question that has often

plane; and conclude their modest pamphlet with a plea for their own admission into the faculty and government of the institution. They propose to raise $4500 from the rent of rooms, which have never yielded $2500, and to make no adequate provision for fuel, insurance, repairs, interest, or payment of the debt, or any other incidental expenses, and finally to abolish all tuition. In other words, they insist that the trustees shall deliberately attempt to do with $15,000 what cannot be properly accomplished with less than $23,000.

It would seem either that these young men have become demoralized by residence in the city and daily intercourse with enemies of their alma mater and have actually thrown down their arms in despair, or that they have entered into an organized conspiracy to get possession of the property and manage the college according to their own ideas and for their own purposes.

W. S. CLARK.

Amherst, January 28th, 1879.

The Ploughman.

BOSTON, SATURDAY, FEB. 8, 1879.

The New England Agricultural Society Meeting.—The meeting of the New England Agricultural Society on Tuesday last, in the upper hall of the Ploughman Building, No. 45 Milk street, of which a full account is given in the current issue of the *Ploughman*, was one of the largest yet held in the history of the Society. It chanced to occur on the tenth anniversary of the reorganization of the Society, February 4th. The proceedings were remarkably harmonious, and the spirit of enthusiasm prevailed throughout. The annual list of officers was chosen, which will be found in another place. The speeches at the meeting, and at the dinner which followed, showed that the Society was never more vigorous than it is now, ready for an advance on the path it has chosen and to which it is pledged. For a purely business meeting this was one of remarkable interest, to which reference will long be made with pleasure by those who participated in the proceedings. It was voted to instruct the Executive Committee to favor the proposal which has been made to the Society to hold its next Annual Fair at Worcester again, and the Committee will soon to wished together with a view to comply with the proposition. The meeting of the Society bespoke but too plainly the brilliancy of its prospects and the vigor of its purpose.

The New Hall.—A few words are due to the Hall in the *Ploughman* Building in which the New England Agricultural Society held its annual meeting on Tuesday. It was universally conceded to be a great improvement on the practice hitherto followed of meeting in different parts of the city, and for the first time the Society feels that it can claim a home of its own, in which it may assemble for its own purposes whenever so inclined. The chairs completely cover the floor in regular concentric circles, while the platform is roomy enough to accommodate the officers and attaches of the Society. Improvements and fresh attractions will of course be added in the future, but the chief satisfaction of all farmers is to know that they now have a place which they can call Headquarters in Boston.

A Painful Incident.—The single occurrence that marred the pleasure of the New England Agricultural Society's Meeting last Tuesday, was the sudden illness of *Solomon H. Howe*, of Bolton, Mass., stricken with paralysis, who was removed by attendants to a room in Young's Hotel. There he was attended by the best medical assistance, and lingered till five o'clock on the following morning, when he expired. His family was summoned, and attended him in his last moments. Mr. Howe was associated with Dr. Loring and Col. Needham in the act of incorporation of the New England Agricultural Society, and a firm and active friend to its interests to the last hour of his life. He was formerly President of the Boston, Clinton and Fitchburg Railroad, and died at the age of 57 years.

PRESIDENT CLARK'S REPLY.

The answer furnished the public by President Clark, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, to the attack of not more than two persons who pretend to represent the great body of the Alumni of the College, bristles with figures and facts which their utmost hostility cannot disturb. In fact, they are exhibited to the public impaled on these points, where they will stay in their most uncomfortable position until relieved by the friendly hand of public forgetfulness. They happen to be persons, too, who have received gratuitously the advantages which the College was ready to confer on them, and take this peculiar method of manifesting their gratitude. While eleemosynary aid is a disgrace to no one, even in respect to matters outside the pale of education, it is to be expected that those who are willing to receive such benefit should not be the first to turn and smite their benefactor. And they certainly have less right even than others to invent their facts and imagine their figures.

The straightforward answer of President Clark is a complete refutation of all their assertions, arguments and inuendoes. And he does not omit, either, to show up their gratuitous and ill-considered recommendations as arrant nonsense and in practice impossibilities. It is not necessary to go into any detailed recital of this overwhelming refutation of what, at best, amounts only to a deliberate and studied slander. Item by item he takes them down, leaving them powerless to regain their feet. Their attack on Amherst, as well as on the College, is repelled with the fewest but most effective words, although no such defence is needed. The charge of extravagance in the administration of the affairs of the College is proved false. So likewise is the charge that the members of the Executive Committee have drawn pay for their services. Also the assertion that the Chemical Department receives no aid from the College Treasury, and that instruction in practical chemistry is not furnished in the regular course. A reference to the Fifteenth Annual Report will instantly upset this very serious accusation.

The criticism which this Committee of the Alumni presume to pass upon the comparative efficiency of the several departments of the College, needs but to be stated in direct and plain terms in order to stand exposed in the fullness of its ignorance and folly. As for the inharmony which is charged against the Faculty, it is denied in toto, and proof is challenged. So, too, in respect to the state of discipline and the standard of scholarship. The saddest evidence of the failure of the College to do its proposed work is to be found in this publication of the slanders and falsehoods for which one or two of the alumni alone are responsible. The steward story is exploded by President Clark as easily as a child would manage a toy torpedo; while the statement about the boarding facilities is, by a simple comparison of authentic figures, reduced to the very lowest minimum of intelligent recognition. In respect to the loose and large recommendations of this overwise Committee relative to the finances of the College and the better distribution and arrangement of instructors, the answer of President Clark leaves nothing more for the true friends of the College to ask or desire.

He practices a most generous charity of judgment in framing the explanation that "these young men," who compose this defamatory Committee, have "either become demoralized by residence in the city and daily intercourse with enemies of their *alma mater*," or that "they have entered into an organized conspiracy to get possession of the property and to manage the College according to their own ideas, and for their own purposes." That, we are fully persuaded, will be the judgment of every fair-minded and considerate person in the State, who interests himself sufficiently in the matter to become possessed of the facts as they are. It can hardly have been less than a conspiracy that will explain such an unnatural revolt against a personal as well as a public benefactor. We have but one feeling for young men who can find it in their hearts to turn upon the one conferring it, and that is a feeling of pity. There is nothing left to hope for from such natures, unless reformation shall overtake them in some miraculous manner.

THE FRENCH CRISIS.

The very recent experience of France in republicanism has been such in its results as to greatly encourage the hopes of the lovers of constitutional liberty throughout the world. A crisis has been encountered and successfully passed which has acted like a spectre upon the minds of a great many Frenchmen. MacMahon, having been peremptorily requested by the Ministry to affix his official signature to certain measures which were to signalize the recent decisive Republican victories, and to establish the fact before the world that a civil government had wholly supplanted that of military rule, refused compliance and tendered the resignation of his office.

Ordinarily it would have precipitated revolution; but the popular sentiment was so strongly in favor of giving a fair trial to the republican experiment that it waited in patience to see what should be the result, willing to confide in the promises and professions of the Republican leaders. The event showed the wisdom of their decision Immediately following the resignation of MacMahon, the two branches of the legislature met in joint convention and proceeded to constitutionally elect his successor, which they did without tumult and even without any disturbance of the public tranquility. Jules Grevy, formerly President of the Senate, was chosen President of the Republic for the term of seven years, and took his seat amid the applause of the people of Paris and France.

On the following day Gambetta was elected President of the Chamber of Deputies, or the popular branch of the Legislature, and took his seat with a similar expression of popular feeling resounding in his ears. The Ministry was soon after reconstructed in accordance with the result of the elections, and thus the foundations of practical republicanism in France may be regarded as laid. There is of course much for it to contend with as it develops its policy and proposes its measures; but by this single moderate yet courageous act of the Legislature, each branch of which is controlled for the first time by a Republican majority, the military spirit is forced to yield to the civil form, and constitutional law begins to operate in the place of the rule of naked power.

The Republic of the United States responds with an expression of the sincerest joy to this practical proof of the triumph of the Republic of France. She was our earliest friend among the nations when we most needed sympathy and aid, and it is appropriate above all things for us to proffer our earliest congratulations on the success of her own achievement. Gambetta is the soul and inspiration of republicanism in France, yet he keeps himself wisely aloof from engaging so actively and ambitiously in the cause he loves as to hazard its success by any chances which might befall him personally. The France of to-day is in its promise the first nation in continental Europe.

THE LEGISLATURE.

Petitions in reference to a variety of subjects have been presented during the week in both branches, among them being several for protection against tramps. An order was adopted in the Senate to consider the propriety of amending the laws relating to the preservation of ballots cast for town officers. A bill was also introduced concerning trusts created by will. The committee on Banks and Banking reported adversely on the order relative to the foreclosure of mortgages held by Savings banks. Further salary reduction bills were reported. A bill was engrossed authorising agents of Boards of Health to make complaints of the violation of the laws relating to public health; also to extend the powers of assessors of taxes. In the House, an order was passed for the proper Committee to consider in regard to a railroad to connect existing railroads with the lands of the Commonwealth at South Boston. Also to consider in relation to the protection of children from cruelty. Gov. Talbot sent in a special Message concerning the preservation of the fisheries. Reports were brought in from the different standing committees. The Judiciary Committee reported that it was inexpedient to legislate on reducing the poll tax to one dollar. The salary retrenchment bill was ordered to a third reading, all amendments having been rejected.

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE.

The 26th annual meeting of the State Board of Agriculture was commenced at noon Tuesday Feb. 4th, in the rooms of the Secretary of the Board at the State House, the Hon. Marshall P. Wilder calling the meeting to order, and about 30 members of the Board being present. The Hon. Charles L. Flint read the records of the last meeting of the Board, and made a statement of the farmers' institutes held during the year, and Mr. John B. Moore stated that he intends to offer a motion during the meeting providing that every society that had a bounty from the State to hold a certain number of institutes during the year. Messrs Moore, Grinnell and Slade were appointed a committee to prepare an order of business. Mr. Flint stated that about 300 pages of the annual report of the Board is already in type, including nearly the entire report of the Hingham meeting. It will make a somewhat smaller volume than usual. An application was presented from Robert A. Harrison of Lowell for appointment to a free scholarship in the American Veterinary College of New York, which places one free scholarship at the disposal of each State Board of Agriculture.

The Committee on Business reported as follows:

1. Reports of delegates to the county societies.
2. Report of Committee on the Agricultural College.
3. Arrangements for the country meeting.
4. Assigning subjects and committees for essays.
5. Miscellaneous business.
6. Election of delegates to the county societies. The reading of reports was commenced with Mr. Macy's report of the Middlesex Fair at Concord.

At the continued meeting Wednesday, Feb. 5, Committees were appointed as follows: To nominate an Executive Committee of the Agricultural College, Messrs. Hadwin, Slade and Davenport; Committee on Assignment of Delegates to the County Societies, Messrs. Wakefield, Brown and Bowditch; Committee to Select Subjects for Essays, Messrs. Clark, Grinnell and Moore; Committee on Time and Place of Holding County Meeting, Messrs. Grinnell, Lewis and Knox. Prof. Goessman of the Agricultural College presented a report on Salt Marshes and his sixth annual report as Inspector of Fertilizers.

The Committee on Credentials made their report, and the following new members entered upon their duties: E. Frank Bowditch of Framingham, Velorus Taft of Upton, John B. Moore of Concord, J. H. Demond of Northampton, William R. Sessions of Hampden, Henry M. Pierson of Pittsfield, Merritt J. Wheeler of Great Barrington, Edmund Hersey of Hingham, Alexander Macy, Jr., of Nantucket; James R. Nichols, appointed by the Executive.

MASS. AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES.

MEMBERS EX OFFICIIS.

His Excellency, THOMAS TALBOT.
WILLIAM S. CLARK, LL.D., *President of the College.*
JOHN W. DICKINSON, *Secretary of Board of Education.*
CHARLES L. FLINT, *Secretary of Board of Agriculture.*

MEMBERS BY ELECTION.

MARSHALL P. WILDER, *of Boston.*
CHARLES G. DAVIS, *of Plymouth.*
HENRY COLT, *of Pittsfield.*
PHINEAS STERN, *of Chicopee.*
JAMES S. GRINNELL, *of Greenfield.*
HENRY L. WHITING, *of Cambridge.*
DANIEL NEEDHAM, *of Groton.*
WILLIAM KNOWLTON, *of Upton.*
JOHN CUMMINGS, *of Woburn.*
RICHARD GOODMAN, *of Lenox.*
BENJ. P. WARE, *of Marblehead.*
O. B. HADWEN, *of Worcester.*

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

WILLIAM S. CLARK, CHARLES L. FLINT, HENRY COLT, WILLIAM KNOWLTON, PHINEAS STERNAN.

SECRETARY.

CHARLES L. FLINT, *of Boston.*

AUDITOR.

HENRY COLT, *of Pittsfield.*

DEATH OF DANA.

A veteran citizen and man of letters has departed from the scenes of earth in the person of Richard H. Dana, Sr., who was already a distinguished man before the present generation had come upon the stage. Although a man of marked distinction by reason of his critical acquirements and ability, he nevertheless continued through his life to be a recluse in respect to common affairs, a devoted student, a lover of Nature, a poet, and a philosopher. Perhaps there are not many who would envy the one who pursued a life of such unbroken quiet, particularly in an age full of ambitious activities, sensations, and noisy pursuits; but all that there is of it has to pass through the alembic of the spirit at last, so that it is the one only who has made the best use of his life who can say that he has succeeded best.

It may with truth be said of him that he would have produced something of his own which the world would not willingly let die, had not his critical faculty been so extremely acute and his literary taste so fastidious. He was one of the sensitives his whole life through, and the same feeling which forbade him to employ his talents with more freedom because he was conscious of his inability to reach the high standard of excellence which he had habitually set up, likewise operated to make him fond of seclusion and a life of meditation, to avoid the noisy and dusty highways of existence, and to cherish his pure and lofty ideals with the fondness of devotion itself. Though in the world, he was not of it. He lived in his books, his studies, his home, and in Nature; and what life is not to be esteemed happy above other lives that can exhibit so simple but rich a record as this?

Mr. Dana was ninety-one years and two and one-half months old when he died. It is a great age for mortal man to attain to. He was one of the founders of the old North American Review, and passed upon the merits of that remarkable poem, Thanatopsis, when its author, then but eighteen years old, sent it as a venturesome contribution to the Review. From that day till the day on which Bryant died, the two men were close and steady friends. They differed radically in their religious and their political views, but they were none the less friends for that. A correspondence was faithfully kept up between them until death severed the earthly relationship. Mr. Dana was, in fact, the Nestor among our literary men, and led the entire class not merely in virtue of his years, but by reason of his superior critical ability also. All his days he continued to be a student, keeping the closest companionship with his favorite authors, but making slow friendships with those who wrote without genuine inspiration.

Our purely literary class of Americans has not yet fulfilled the promise of its beginning. The men who stood as godfathers at the birth of American literature seem to have had higher and larger conceptions of its real meaning than their latest followers, who are apparently satisfied to be thought mere *litterateurs*. Take such names as Dana, Bryant, Irving, Cooper, and those of their contemporaries, and while we are ready to allow much to the exaggeration of character and ability which the mirage of time invariably causes, it cannot be justly controverted that they addressed themselves to their work in a spirit of self-devotion which is really to be found in the men of these later times. It may be that we are to have a new intellectual baptism yet, growing out of the new and deeper experience of a century; but until it occurs it becomes us to dwell with fond admiration on the pioneers in our literary life who, if they did no more, held up the true standard for their followers to attain.

CONGRESS.

The Naval Committee of the House is ready to report on the alleged frauds in the Navy under the late Secretary Robeson, and the report will involve the Secretary and several others. The attention of the President, instead of that of the District Attorney, is called to the facts. The River and Harbor bill is under the consideration of the bill committee. The debate on the amendment resolutions of Senator Edmunds is going on in the Senate. The House is seriously discussing the proposition to reduce the army. The House Committee on Patents has agreed to report favorably on the bill authorizing an extension of the Matthias and McKay Shoe Sewing Machine patent. The investigating committees are still engaged at their work. The nominations of Merritt to the Collectorship, and of Burt to the Naval Office in New York, have been confirmed, after an exciting and protracted struggle. The House defeated the bill providing that the gold and silver coins of the United States which have been declared full legal tenders, shall hereafter be interchangeable at their lawful value, on the demand of any holder. A substitute to issue forty millions of four per cent bonds, in lieu of the proposed appropriation of one hundred millions, to pay arrears of pensions, has been voted down in the House. In Committee of the Whole, the bill for the appointment of a commission on Mississippi River improvements was ordered, after discussion, to be reported to the House.

Death of Hon. Solomon H. Howe.

Solomon H. Howe died suddenly at Young's Hotel, Boston, February 5, at 5 o'clock A. M. The deceased was well known in the dry goods circles of this city up to the opening of the war. He was a native of Berlin, in this State, and early in life entered the dry goods house of Lyman Nichols & Co., where he proved himself an expert salesman. On the dissolution of the old firm of Nichols, Pierce & Co., the new firm was Howe, Pierce & Co.

W. A. Howe, an elder brother of the deceased, was the senior member of the firm. W. A Howe retired, and Solomon H. retained the position and kept up the style of the firm. When W. A. Howe died he left his property to the deceased, and shortly after the opening of the war, the firm having been very successful, the deceased retired with a large competency and purchased, we think, a part or the whole of the old General Holman farm in Bolton.

He soon became prominent both in the town and county, and was returned to the General Court as a representative from Bolton. When the several enterprises forming the consolidated line of the Boston, Clinton, Fitchburg & New Bedford Railroad was started, Mr. Howe was only took an active part but embarked a large amount of his capital in prosecuting their success.

Two years ago the consolidated company came to grief, and the deceased found himself robbed of all his fortune. Bearing up bravely under the reverses he kept up his courage, hoping for better times. Tuesday he received his full discharge in the bankruptcy court, and was congratulating himself on a more prosperous future when he was stricken down the second time with paralysis, while attending a meeting of the New England Agricultural Society, at 45 Milk St. He was conveyed to Young's Hotel and his wife and family sent for. He remained conscious up to about 2 o'clock Wednesday morning and expired at 5 o'clock.

The deceased had a large circle of business and social friends who will sincerely mourn his death. He leaves a widow and four children His age was 57 years.

☞ A French agriculturist who has recently visited Jersey, reports that the rent per acre in that island is as much as 840 francs, $96 per year; that a cow yields from 14 to 22 quarts of milk daily, or 10 to 14 pounds of butter per week; a two year old heifer sells from 1,000 francs to 2,500 francs; that the food of cows varies as butter or milk is the object, and the animals are fed every two hours. A Jersey cow produces about 600 francs a year, the breed is pure, no foreign stock is allowed to be imported under a penalty of 25,000 francs, and amelioration is effected by judicious home selections.

☞ Ohio owns $100,000,000 worth of liv stock, according to the State auditor's repor

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEW ENGLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Boston, Tuesday, February 4, 1879.

A Large and Enthusiastic Gathering.

RE-ELECTION OF

HON. GEORGE B. LORING,
PRESIDENT.
HON. DANIEL NEEDHAM,
SECRETARY.
COL. GEORGE W. RIDDLE,
TREASURER.

[Phonographically Reported expressly for the Mass. Ploughman, by J. M. W. Yerriaton.]

The regular annual meeting of the New England Agricultural Society was held on Tuesday forenoon, Feb. 4th, at "New England Agricultural Institute Hall," 45 Milk Street, Boston, and was fully attended, prominent gentlemen connected with agricultural pursuits being present from all the States embraced in the organization.

The meeting was called to order at 11 1-2 o'clock by the Secretary of the Society, Hon. DANIEL NEEDHAM, who read the call, and the following letter from the President:

Letter of Dr. Loring to Col. Needham.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan 23, 1879.

My Dear Sir:

Your announcement that the annual meeting of the New England Agricultural Society will soon be held reminds me that I ought not to let the occasion pass without a few words of encouragement and congratulation to those with whom I have been so long associated in the management of its affairs. The marked success of the Society has been owing not only to the energy of my associates, but to the early determination that it should be self-supporting, and that it should co-operate in every way with similar associations throughout New England. That it has done much to stimulate the industry to which it is devoted is now universally acknowledged; and I cannot express the satisfaction I feel that in accomplishing this object it has been guided by the practical wants of the farmer, and not by mere theory or personal aggrandizement. It has been and is an association of practical farmers laboring to develop their business by cultivating the land and improving their animals.

I congratulate you on the success of the Exhibition of the last year, and on the happy union you made with the Worcester Agricultural Society—one of the oldest and most useful in the country. The report of your proceedings is most gratifying and encouraging. I trust the present year will be as prosperous as the last, and that the New England Society has before it a long course of usefulness and honor.

Truly yours, GEO. B. LORING.

HON. DANIEL NEEDHAM,
Secretary of N. E. Agricultural Society.

Maj. PHINNEY, of Barnstable. Regretting the absence of our President, who has always been untiring and zealous in his labors, I see present one of the earliest pioneers of the New England Agricultural Society, Gov. HEAD, of New Hampshire, and I would nominate him as President *pro tem.*

This nomination was unanimously ratified, and Maj. S. B. Phinney, of Massachusetts, was appointed by Col. Needham, a Committee to conduct him to the chair, and Gov. Head, on taking the platform, was heartily greeted.

Remarks of Governor Head.

Gentlemen of the New England Agricultural Society:—This honor is quite unexpected, and I accept this position with no little embarassment, I assure you. I wish that I were able to make the speech the President of this Society would make you were he here, but I am unprepared, and should not be able to do that, were I prepared. But I must say, gentlemen, I congratulate you upon the success of this Society, not only for the past year, but since its organization, and more, I congratulate you upon its prospects for the future. The presence of so many of the distinguished agriculturists of New England as were assembled shows that they feel an interest in the prosperity of the Society, and is an indication of its future prosperity. I thank you, gentlemen, heartily, for the favor you have shown me, and will not say more, but will call on the Secretary for his report.

Col. NEEDHAM then read his report, as follows:

Secretary Needham's Report.

The New England Agricultural Society held its fifteenth annual Fair in connection with the Worcester Agricultural Society in the city of Worcester, on the 3d, 4th, 5th and 7th days of September, 1878. The Exhibition was second in interest to none of its predecessors. The number, variety and excellence of animals on exhibition in every class justified the high expectations indulged in by the officers of the Society when the proposal for holding a Fair at this central point was first entertained. The entire number of animals on the ground competing for premiums and offered for exhibition exceeded seven hundred. Every New England State was represented, and the interest manifested argued well for the future of New England agricul ure. The Exhibition in other departments was well maintained, and had it not been that the proceedings were interrupted by one rainy day, the receipts would have been more in accordance with the sanguine expectations of the Board of Managers.

The Farmers' Meetings were an important feature of the Fair, and were largely attended during the three consecutive evenings on which they were held.

The subjects discussed were subjects appertaining directly to the growth and development of agriculture in New England and a large number of gentlemen took active part in rendering these discussions valuable and interesting. Distinguished gentlemen, accredited delegates, from Maryland, New Jersey, New York and other more distant States, were in attendance at the Fair, and some of these gentlemen took prominent part in the discussions.

The earnest co-operation of the Worcester Agricultural Society tended in no small degree to lighten the burden of carrying on the Fair, and securing for it the great success achieved. This co-operation commenced at the first moment of our determination to locate the Fair at Worcester and continued without abatement until its close.

Distinguished citizens of Worcester opened their houses and tendered the most generous hospitality to the members of the New England Society, its officers and its guests.

It was a matter of deep regret on the part of all, that our President, Hon. Geo. B. Loring, on account of deep family affliction, was unable to be with us. The inspiration of his presence has never on any previous occasion failed us at our annual gatherings.

The marked success which from year to year has cheered us on—the co-operation of the intelligent agriculturists of New England who have added us—the breaking of a new day for our farms and our farmers in the developed and developing means of making agricultural labor profitable and agreeable, all tend to brighten the pathway of the Society's future and satisfy us that hard as may have been our exertions and cheerless at times as may have been our prospects, the attained and the attainable have more than justified the effort.

The great mission of the Society to aid and stimulate the work of local organizations may perhaps be regarded as effective in this its last effort as in any of its preceding ones; and as from year to year our organization gathers strength and age, the work of a helper and co-operator with local organizations anticipated by its founders will be more fully realized and appreciated.

DANIEL NEEDHAM, *Secretary.*

Col. GEO. W. RIDDLE, Treasurer, then presented his report, as follows:

New England Agricultural Society in account with Geo. W. Riddle.

	Dr.	Cr.
Cash on hand February 5, 1878,	$24.05	
" for life membership,	285.00	
" of G. W. Ambrose, for one-third of profits of New England Fair held in Worcester, Sept. 3, 4, 5, and 6, 1878,	880.00	
	$1489.05	
To cash paid 63 dinners at Young's Hotel, per vote of annual meeting,	63.00	
" paid R. W. Herrick, for engraving seal,	4.80	
" paid for express, postage, telegrams, stationery, etc.,	22.37	
" paid Wm. Nacle, for use of chairs 1878,	5.25	
" paid Daniel Needham, for express, postage, etc,	20.00	
Total,	$ 115.42	
Leaving balance on hand Feb. 4, 79,	1373.63	
$1000 of which is invested in U. S. 4 per cent. bonds, and the remainder is in the hands of the Treasurer, in cash.		

The report was accepted.

The CHAIRMAN. I suppose the next business is the election of officers.

Maj. Phinney moved to proceed to ballot for President of the Society for the ensuing year.

Mr. YOUNG, of Portsmouth. I would suggest that we vote for President, Secretary and Treasurer at one time. I do not think there will be any opposition to the re-election of the old Board—Dr. Loring, Col. Needham, and Col. Riddle.

Maj. Phinney accepted the amendment.

Mayor PRATT, of Worcester. It seems to me that we should facilitate this business by appointing a committee to retire and nominate a list of officers, including Vice Presidents and Trustees. We can then vote "Aye" or "No" upon their report.

Mr. YOUNG. The Constitution provides that the officers shall be elected by ballot, and the quicker we can get at it the sooner will the business be accomplished.

Judge BARTLETT, of Manchester, N. H. If the gentlemen will allow me, I think I can make a suggestion which will save still more time than any proposition that has been made. I think there is no question as to who will be President, Secretary and Treasurer, and the Constitution provides that the vote shall be by ballot. Now I suggest that the President *pro tem.* be authorized to cast one ballot each for the President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Society. That ballot will legally elect, and if there is no question, as I take it there is not, as to who those officers will be, why not allow Gov. Head to cast the ballots? That is as short as we can make it.

Maj. PHINNEY. I have no doubt of the unanimity of this meeting in regard to the re-election of its officers. I will therefore accept the amendment.

A gentleman moved that the meeting proceed to take an informal ballot for President, but the motion was not seconded.

Hon. MOSES HUMPHREY, of Concord, N. H. This matter was discussed a few years ago very fully in our meeting, and after some two hours or more of discussion, we finally decided to have a ballot. I think that is the truest way. I do not know that there is any objection to the President, Secretary and Treasurer of the Society,—they are all honorable men; but it is more honor to them to receive every ballot in this house than it is to be elected by a ticket cast by you, or me, or any other man. I say let us have separate ballots. We are here for this purpose, and there is time enough.

The motion was then put, as amended by Judge Bartlett, and carried, and the President *pro tem* cast one ballot for Hon. GEO. B. LORING, as President, Hon. DANIEL NEEDHAM, as Secretary, and Col. GEORGE W. RIDDLE, as Treasurer, respectively, and declared those gentlemen elected.

Col. NEEDHAM. It has been customary at our gatherings for the meeting at this stage to take a recess of five, ten or fifteen minutes, in order to give the representatives from each State an opportunity to confer together and bring in a list consisting of one Vice President and eleven Trustees from each State; and I make a motion, that we now take a recess of ten minutes, for the purpose of giving the delegates from the different States an opportunity to confer together and make up their lists of Vice Presidents and Trustees.

This motion was carried, and the gentlemen from the several States congregated in different parts of the hall for the purpose indicated.

After a short interval, the meeting was again called to order, and the following lists were presented from the respective States, and the gentlemen named therein elected.

MAINE.

Vice President.

JOHN HALL, North Berwick

Trustees.

Charles J. Gilman, Brunswick; Rufus Prince, Turner; H. L. Whitney, Hebron; Moses H. Hussey, North Berwick; W. S. Tilton, Augusta; Waldo T. Pierce, Bangor; Fred Atwood, Winterport; S. T. Holbrook, Oxford; N. R. Boutelle, Waterville; Seth Scammon, Scarboro'; S. H. Tewksbury, Portland.

NEW HAMPSHIRE.

Vice President.

FREDERICK SMYTHE, Manchester.

Trustees.

D. H. Goodell, Antrim; Warren Brown, Hampton Falls; A. W. Quint, Manchester; Nat Head, Hooksett; S. C. Fisher, Dover; Peter W. Jones, Amherst; Chester Pike, Cornish; Natt Hubbard, Tamworth; E. C. Shirley, Goffstown; Greenleaf Clarke, Atkinson; Waterman Smith, Manchester.

VERMONT

Vice President.

GEORGE CAMPBELL, Westminster.

Trustees.

A. B. Fairbanks, Fomfret; L. S. Drew, Burlington; Lawrence Brainard, St. Albans; C. Horace Hubbard, Springfield; Col. J. B. Mead, Randolph; Ed. Hall, Randolph; Henry Clark, Rutland; S. H. Foster, Calais; T. H. Hoskins, Newport; E. S. Stowell, Cornwall; J. H. Peters, Bradford.

MASSACHUSETTS.

Vice President.

S. B. PHINNEY, Barnstable.

Trustees.

S. H. Howe, Bolton; John Johnson, Framingham; C. B. Pratt, Worcester; J. A. Harwood, Littleton; W. F. Boyd, Mansfield; Leander Wetherell, Boston; Samuel C. Oliver, Salem.; E. T. Rowell, Lowell; W. T. Cook, Foxboro'; Levi Stockbridge, Amherst; Geo. Noyes, Boston.

RHODE ISLAND.

Vice President.

WILLIAM E. BARRETT, Providence.

Trustees.

Amasa Sprague, Cranston; Obadiah Brown, Providence; William H. Hopkins, East Providence; William Elsbree, Oaklawn; Joseph F. Brown, Providence; Isaac Hazard, Providence; Wm. Whitcomb, Cedar Grove; John D. Cranston, Wickford; Wm. P. Vaughn, Smithfield; Geo. E. Waring, Newport.

CONNECTICUT.

Vice President,

E. H. HYDE, Stafford.

Trustees.

J. P. Barstow, Norwich; S. M. Wells, Wethersfield; O. B. King, Watertown; Samuel Colt, Farmington; T. S. Gold, West Cornwall; John Dimon, Putnam; B. Sumner, Woodstock; John T. Rockwell, Winsted; P. Ratchford Starr, Litchfield; P. M. Augur, Middlefield; J. J. Webb, New Haven.

Hon. WARREN BROWN, of N. H. since I have come down, I have learned an important fact: that our Treasurer has a large amount of provisions stored up in the tavern called "Geo. Young's." I would move that he invite all the working farmers present to take dinner with him at that tavern, at one o'clock.

Hon. S. H. HOWE, of Mass. I desire to say a word or two before that motion is put. I am very happy, sir, to find that the Treasurer's pocket is full, but I see there is a large attendance here to-day, and it seems to me it would be a good idea to amend the motion, that the dinner shall not exceed one dollar a plate.

Mr. BROWN. I accept that amendment. We get a good dinner for that.

The motion was carried, unanimously.

Maj. PHINNEY. I would offer the following as an amendment to Art. 19 of the Constitution, so that it shall read—"All amendments to this Constitution shall be made by the Board of Trustees and Executive officers, in a meeting specially called for that purpose, and no amendment shall be made except by a two-thirds vote of the members present." It has been thought for some year or two that some amendments to the Constitution of the Society were desirable, after an existence of fifteen years, and the States are so well represented by the Executive Board that I offer that as a motion.

Hon. Moses Humphrey, of New Hampshire, called for the reading of Article 19—and Col. Riddle read the original Article which it was now proposed to amend. After deliberation the motion was carried, without dissent.

Mayor PRATT, of Worcester. I suppose gentlemen are all aware that the Worcester Agricultural Society have, through their officers, invited the New England Society to hold its next annual show at Worcester, and I suppose it is unnecessary for me to say, that our people were so much pleased with you last year that they are determined, if possible, to have you come again this year, promising to do still better by you. We have learned something during the last year about the management of Fairs. I do not know whether it be according to the rules that the Society at this time should vote to hold the Fair at any particular place, or whether the subject should be referred to the Trustees.

Col. NEEDHAM. The Constitution provides that the Trustees shall locate the Fairs, but it has been customary frequently for the annual meeting to express its opinion as to where the Fair should be located by the Board of Trustees.

Mayor PRATT. I want to say that we have kept most of our pens, all that we could, and that all the arrangements for the fair were made with the hope that the fair for this year would be held in our city. We feel that we ought to have it, for one reason, that we had such bad weather last year; and another reason is, that we believe Worcester is quite as central a place for the New England Fair as any other place that can be selected. I do not know that there is any disposition to have the Fair held anywhere else; I have heard of none; and therefore I move that the Trustees be instructed, that it is the sense of this meeting that the Fair be held in Worcester, next September.

Mr. HUMPHREY. I heartily second that motion, for I believe Worcester to be the best point, and have always said so since the organization of the New England Society, at which to hold the New England Fair. I was early earnest to have it located there, but some of the friends thought differently, and that plan was not adopted. But we held the Fair there last year and did well, and I hope we shall go there this year. I only want to throw in one word: just give the hotel keepers there a little caution as to their charges.

Mayor PRATT. If there was anything wrong in our hotel arrangements last year, it shall be corrected this year, if you will come to Worcester. I will say that one of the proprietors of the Bay State House is here, and he has assured me that their arrangements shall be made satisfactory to us, and to every gentleman who visits us. If they do not treat you well, we will open our houses, and you shall have the same that we have ourselves.

Col. HOWE. I should like to say a word in behalf of Worcester. I was formerly President of that Society, and perhaps I can give you some information in relation to the people of that locality. They are all gentlemen, sir (applause), and I believe the New England Society, from its President down, are all gentlemen. We have associated together as gentlemen. I know of no place in New England where the members of this Society have been so kindly treated as they were at Worcester last year. Every gentleman who spoke to me said he never saw anything like it. If a hammer was wanted, that hammer was forthcoming, with a big marshal carrying it on his back. If anything else was wanted, we had it. They were the most accommodating set of people I ever saw, and, as His Honor, the Mayor of Worcester says, their houses were open and their hearts were open. It is true. I have been a member of this Society ever since its organization, and I was never treated so handsomely in any spot as I was in the city of Worcester last year.

Then there is another reason why the Exhibition should be held there. In the first place, they have erected all the necessary buildings, and those buildings are in readiness for another year, and the Exhibition this year can be carried on for half the expense by reason of the fact that those buildings still remain on the grounds. It will save a great many dollars. Mayor Pratt of this Society, and of the Worcester Society, because the expenses will be less. I see no reason why we should not vote to hold the Fair there next September. I heartily concur in the motion, and hope every member will vote for it.

Col. NEEDHAM. His Honor the Mayor has anticipated me a little. I had intended to present to the meeting an official document which I have received, signed by the President and Secretary of the Worcester Agricultural Society, inviting this Society to hold its Fair for 1879 in the city of Worcester. It will be considered that that document is now presented. That brings the matter legitimately and fully before the meeting.

Mayor PRATT. Just one word in explanation of the statement of my friend Howe. I am afraid that what he said might be misconstrued. He says that we are all "gentlemen" up there. I want it distinctly understood that we have a great many ladies there, and they are all heart and hand in this movement. I am afraid our friends from New Hampshire and Maine would not come to our Fair if they understood there were no ladies. (Laughter.)

Mr. HOWE. I had not time to speak of the ladies. That subject I am going to take up in future, and make a longer speech than before.

Maj. PHINNEY. I want to set that matter right. I remember being in a religious conference some considerable time ago, and the President called upon the brethren to pray through the day to make some remarks. By-and-by a lady rose and said she was surprised that the sisters had been so long left out in the cold, and had not been called upon to speak. Whereupon Mr. Collyer rose and said he thought it was everywhere understood that the brethren *embraced* the sisters! (Laughter.)

Maj. PHINNEY. I desire to say that we have no such meetings up at Worcester. (Laghter).

Maj. LADD, of Lowell. Mr. President, I wish to ask, through you, what meeting Maj. Phinney attends? (Great merriment.)

The CHAIRMAN. I am delighted to see such good feeling in the Society. The question is on the motion of Mayor Pratt, that the next Exhibition be held at Worcester.

The motion was carried by a show of hands, without a dissenting vote.

Mr. CURRIER, of Boston. I desire to present to this meeting the claim of a gentleman in New Hampshire, who is not present, for an unpaid premium, amounting to fifty dollars. It was brought before the meeting of the Society a year ago, and a Committee was appointed, I think, to investigate it, but the gentleman was not notified of the time of the meeting of the Committee. The gentleman who last year brought this claim before the meeting is to-day sick, and unable to be here. Five minutes before I came here, I saw him, and he desired me to come here and present this claim. He thought it might be well to appoint a Committee of three, consisting of one from Presidents from New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island to examine this claim, and if found just, to authorize the Treasurer to pay it.

Col. NEEDHAM. I second that motion. I think it is a very good one. I am very glad the matter has been brought up, and second the motion, that it be referred to the Vice-Presidents from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

This motion was carried.

A Lamentable Incident.

While the motion for adjournment was pending, a sad event disturbed the otherwise exceedingly pleasant and harmonious gathering. Just as the motion for adjournment was made, Hon. S. H. HOWE, of Bolton, was observed to be ill. He was at once taken to a window, and a physician summoned, when it was ascertained that he had been stricken with paralysis. Mayor Pratt of Worcester immediately ordered a carriage and he was removed to Young's Hotel. Mr. How

READ AND RUN.

—The largest cattle-shipper in this country says he handles twenty-five hundred cattle a week, and he has not yet seen a single case of pleuro-pneumonia.

—The immediate gain by the refunding of United States securities is estimated at $8,732,040, which of course does not include the gain that is indirect and incidental.

—Capt. Burton has been giving personal exhibitions, in the Potomac at Washington, of the practical value of his life saving dress.

—Canada has been going into a foolish scare over the importation of cattle from the United States.

—The late Richard H. Dana was never bald at all, but wore a full and natural head of hair until he was ninety-one years old.

—G. W. Childs, of the Philadelphia Ledger, is said to have forty clocks.

—One hundred laborers have returned to New York from Brazil, where they went to help build a railroad.

—The question of free trade in ships is being steadily forced to the front in various quarters.

—Elihu Burritt, the "learned blacksmith," is in very feeble health.

—Capt. Crapo, who with his wife crossed the Atlantic in their frail craft, contemplates a sail next summer up the Mediterranean, and *via* the Suez Canal into the Indian Ocean.

—A local syndicate has taken the new four per cent. loan of the city of Boston, amounting to $1,000,000.

—The feeding of horses is to be stopped in the streets in future, except where the owners occupy licensed stands.

—Lent begins this year on the 26th inst.

—The question is debated, whether it is worth while to pay for election sermons in Massachusetts.

—Four hundred and seventy-five citizens of Windsor, Conn., remonstrate to Congress against the expenditure of money for the pretended improvement of the navigation of the Connecticut River above Hartford.

—France is prosperous, however it goes just now with the other countries of Europe.

—The poet Dana died at his home in this city on Sunday morning last, at the age of ninety-one years and two and a half months.

—Chief Joseph, of the Nez Perces tribe, has sold his lands to the Government for a quarter of a million four per cents., which gives the tribe ten thousand a year to divide.

—The Russian Government is taking vigorous measures to prevent the spread of the cattle plague, even ordering the burning of infected stock.

—The Dexter Savings Bank mystery has become out into a full-sized sensation.

—The commercial visitors from New York and Chicago have not in Mexico, where a round of entertainments and receptions is being enjoyed.

—The city of Elizabeth, N. J., owns up to one hundred.

—There were 161 deaths in the city last week.

—Anna Dickinson lectured last Sunday evening in the Globe Theat r, on the "Stage."

—Now the New York and New England Railroad Company is desirous of buying the twenty-cent ferry of Fiats in South Boston which have been in use so long.

—A new style of ticket is issued by the Metropolitan Railroad Company.

—The labors of the city have been afflicted with sickness during the past week or two.

—W. S. Spofford will deliver an eulogy on Gen. Grant.

—The Boston Public Library contains at the present time 270,000 volumes.

—The American Home Missionary Society has a heavy outstanding debt.

—A Money Market board is talked of in this city, where all will mining stocks exclusively.

—Dr. Lothrop, of Boston, propose to organize and operate a Charitable Sanitary Association, for the benefit of the poor.

—The Old Colony Railroad operates 475 miles of track, 127 miles of water route, employs 2,000 men, 266 passenger cars, and 7 locomotives.

—A report that the British authorities had the building of cattle from the United States refunded. The latest statement is that none is found the cattle trade is resumed.

—The fall show in Horticultural Hall has proved a brilliant success in every respect.

—A few unimportant changes have occurred recently at the Custom House.

—Tars are picking out the handsome men in the ranks of the Legislature. Fiddle-de-dee.

—The State Temperance Alliance has issued its twenty-seventh annual report, which is interesting and full of suggestions.

—Hotels are just now taken in preference to gold for interest, at the Treasury.

—Senators are elected President of the United States by a number of Deputies, by 314 votes out of 456.

—The most fearful of the plague in Russia is reported to the extremely cold weather.

—Two of the Glasgow Bank directors have been convicted of the offences charged, and the rest have been found guilty of uttering false balancesheets. They have been sentenced accordingly.

—There are rumors that the Ameer of Afghanistan is dead, having been taken off with the recent cold.

—Snowden, the Postmaster of Philadelphia, becomes Director of the United States Mint in place of the late Dr. Linderman.

—In St. Petersburg, it is not believed that the ravages of the plague can be abated.

—Mr. Gladstone has accepted the Liberal nomination for Parliament for Midlothian.

—The new French Cabinet has been formed without any difficulty.

—The health of Gambetta is reported to be seriously affected.

—It is questioned, after all, if Senator Christiancy will accept the mission to Peru.

—The speculative fever in Wall street has subsided as suddenly as it arose.

—Ice-boats on the Hudson River have been making a mile a minute, on a ten mile stretch.

—Twenty thousand people have died of smallpox within a short time, in the provinces of Irkutsk, and now the black plague has broken out in another province.

—Russia has requested England to send over medical men, to report on the epidemic.

—Bismarck is reported to have made some kind of terms with the Vatican.

—Photography is threatened with a revolution, in consequence of the work being done in colors outright. It is a French invention.

—In the days of fast transportation, nothing can be called early in the market.

—American manufactured goods are to be met with now in all parts of England.

—Offenbach, the composer, will continue writing music even when suffering most acutely from the gout.

—The poet Tennyson is said to be an intense lover of farm life even in its most practicable ways.

—Anybody can see by this time that the days are getting considerably longer.

—The London correspondents draw a decidedly gloomy picture of winter-life in the British metropolis.

RUPTURE
AND ITS CURE.
HOW THE CURE IS EFFECTED.
BY W. PRYOR, M. D.

This topic is so important that, at the risk of some repetition, we will mention the points under consideration which are to necessary to be clearly understood before intelligent action can be successfully undertaken.

So far as distinguished medical authority is of weight in the decision of the question, we have the positive assertion of Drs. Lawrence, Richter, Sir Astley Cooper, Dorsey and others, that rupture can be cured, and this *at present* as a good offset to that incredulous part of the medical profession who have not made hernia a specialty.

Recent investigations enable us to state that it can be cured, and we adduce in evidence of the assertion the cures that Dr. Sherman is constantly effecting among his numerous patients. Gentlemen of standing in the city of St. Louis are willing to state, to any one desirous of making the inquiry, that Dr. Sherman has cured them. Gentlemen from abroad, whose word would be taken as truth, equally assure us that they have been cured by Dr. Sherman's method; and if more evidence than this is demanded, you would not be convinced though one from the grave should arise and assert the fact.

That the members of the medical profession should be incredulous as to the cure of hernia is not surprising, any more than the distrust manifested by the public at large. They have formed their opinions from the inefficiency of the miserable contrivances known as trusses, which, up to the present day, have been one continued series of mechanical blunders and false assumptions of physiological principles. Nobody believed in the existence of the continent of America up to the time of Columbus, but he, by his genius and courage, made that disbelief a verity. Dr. Sherman stands in the same relation to the invention of a device for the cure of rupture that Columbus did to the New World. He has demonstrated its curability by producing appliances that act in harmony with known physiological laws. He has not merely the genius to devise, but the tact and executive ability to apply the offspring of that genius. His appliances do not press too much, and thereby relax, or too little, and thus not retain; but just enough to aid nature in her effort to support. And this is why Dr. Sherman's appliances aid and accomplish a cure, and why they are so deservedly popular.

A committee of distinguished physicians, when appointed to investigate the merits of blocks in the cure of hernia, when asked, "What causes the occlusion of the hernial orifice in cases of radical cure? And if local irritation and inflammation are not the sole cause of this occlusion, what is their value as auxiliaries in the treatment?" replied that the serous membrane of the hernial sac never loses its peculiar tendency to adhesion under slight irritation, and that in most cases of the radical cure of hernia the neck of the hernial sac is obliterated either by adhesion, or, more rarely, by absorption. Dr. Reynell Coates in 1836 expressed the opinion, which was in harmony with the most distinguished surgeons of his day, that a hernial contrivance, to be successful, must possess perfect retentive power, and this, aided by moderate irritation, accomplishes the result; and that none of the trusses of his period were worthy of confidence as a means of radical cure, because of their deficiency in that respect.

In this state of conflict among the M. D.'s we leave the question of cure to be settled by experience. We are fully satisfied in our own minds, and have endeavored to present the grounds of that satisfaction, that any hernial appliances for its radical cure which do not develop slight irritation of the peritoneum will not only be inefficient but fatally delusive, as a means of safety. Dr. Sherman's applications, which enforce both mechanical and medicinal agencies, fulfil the demands of the contestants perfectly, as has been certified by Dr. Willard Parker and Dr. Carnochan, both eminent surgeons in New York, in the remarkable case of James Corlew.

The foregoing is an extract from Dr. W. Pryor's work on rupture and its cure.

Fatality of Rupture.

The subject of Rupture is of much more importance to mankind than is generally supposed.

It is estimated that one man in every twenty is affected with hernia, and every man who has a hernia is liable at any moment to have a strangulation reproduced. Of those who have suffered from strangulated hernia a very large portion die, while, under the most favorable circumstances, a vast amount of suffering must be endured. How deep, then, does the interest of the subject become?

This accident is also exceedingly insidious in its attack, producing little or no harm until the mischief has become almost irremediable. Even the physician's suspicions are sometimes lulled into the belief that the patient has only an attack of colic, and before he is aroused the fatal die is cast, and to his dismay he finds that he has to deal with a strangulated hernia.

The number of FATAL CASES from Dr. Parish's work prove that it is no idle alarm to declare the imminent peril in which he stands who has neglected hernia. He dare not run, jump, cough, ride or move in other than a measured step, for a fearful death is the doom. He dare not eat, drink, bathe, except by the rule, for this fatal, or almost certainly fatal, accident may occur, even though he may be as prudent as the cautious dame herself. A change of weather, operating as it does on an excitable system, may cause a rupture to become strangulated.

A TERRIBLE SLAUGHTER
—OF—
40,000 TWO DOLLAR BOOKS
—FOR—
FIFTY CENTS EACH,
AND AN ELEGANT
GIFT GIFT
WITH EVERY TWO BOOKS,
—AT—
LOVERING'S
NEW NEW
MILLION DOLLAR BOOK SALE.

I have placed on my shelves and shall open THIS DAY the most

ASTOUNDING SALE
—OF—
BOOKS BOOKS FOR 50 CENTS

Ever known in this or any other country. These Books actually cost the publishers from $1.50 to $2.50 each, making an average of $2 each. I got these Books at a

TREMENDOUS BARGAIN.

All new, all fresh, all elegantly bound, and comprising almost every species of literature,

AND I DO NOT BELIEVE that such bargains in BOOKS were ever known before, and, now, to make A RAPID SALE, I shall

GIVE SOME GIFTS

With these 50 cent Books that will astonish every person that has ever visited or heard of my book establishment.

NOW, SEE! NOW, SEE!
What I am going to do
TO EVERY PERSON
TO EVERY PERSON

Who buys two of these 50 cent books, I will give them one of those

Elegant Gifts

To be selected from my *NEW REVISED LIST OF GIFTS*, which consists of elegant

ROSEWOOD PIANOS,
GOLD AND SILVER WATCHES,
DIAMOND RINGS,
AMETHIST RINGS,
CAMEO RINGS,
GOLD BAND CHINA TEA SETS,
Elegant Silverware, Splendid Japanese Goods, &c. &c.,

Which are given to book-buyers every five minutes in the day. Now let

ALL THE POOR PEOPLE

Who want a good book—a big book, a $2 book—for 50c—books to read these long winter evenings—visit this sale, open THIS DAY and EVERY DAY AFTER, and

Get a Gift with every Two Books they Buy.

My new

MILLION DOLLAR BOOK SALE

Of $3 books and $5 books, for $1 each. And a

GIFT! GIFT!

With every book, is open *EVERY DAY*, and will continue until every book is sold. Now let

UNBELIEVERS

Who wish to know whether I give away the gifts I advertise, read the following list of gifts given to book-buyers at my new

MILLION-DOLLAR BOOK SALE

In two days, and this list is only a part of what I actually did give to book-buyers in two days.

EVERY NAME! EVERY NAME!!

And every residence is guaranteed to be true.

GOLD WATCHES!

Gold watch to Mrs. C. W. Brigham, Lowell, Mass.
Gold watch to Mr. J. M. Frost, Castine, Maine.
Gold watch to Elmer Hall, 12 Cottage st., Cambridge, Mass.
Gold watch to J. R. Grindon, Lynn, Mass.
Gold watch to Miss Edith A. Salter, No. 6 Staniford st., Boston.
Gold watch to Miss L. P. Mitchell, Brookline, Mass.
Gold watch to Mr. P. H. Lock, Somerville, Mass.
Gold watch to Master Robert Burnes, 95 Pleasant st., Somerville.
Gold watch to Miss H. E. Erskine, Eastport, Mass.
Gold watch to Rufus Crow, Concord, Mass.
Gold watch to Lillian M. Shephard, Gloucester, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. Benj. F. Smith, Dedham, Mass.
Gold watch to Miss Chandler, Jamaica Plain, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. J. Crane, Brookline, Mass.
Gold watch to Miss Mader, Malden, Mass.
Gold watch to S. C. Holmes, Plymouth, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. Moulton, 141 London st., East Boston, Mass.
Gold watch to Miss Amy Willis, 279 Eighth st., South Boston, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. Moses Clark, Newton, Mass.
Gold watch to Mr. E. P. King, Gloucester, Mass.
Gold watch to Mr. W. O. Fuller, Lynn, Mass.
Gold watch to Rev. Mrs. Burrough, 82 Mount Vernon st., Boston.
Gold watch to Miss M. G. Wendall, Portsmouth, N. H.
Gold watch to Miss W. Williams, 688 Tremont st., Boston.
Gold watch to Miss J. Alexander, 24 Albion st., Boston.
Gold watch to Miss Carrie A. Rand, 231 Harrison av., Boston.
Gold watch to Mrs. Abbie F. Amsden, Boston.
Gold watch to Mrs. S. C. Hogg, 37 East Newton st., Boston, Mass.
Gold watch to Mabel W. Lampree, 74 Broadway, Chelsea, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. James F. Fiske, Holliston, Mass.
Gold watch to Mrs. Charles Littlefield, 108 Lenox st., Boston.

DIAMOND RINGS

Given to book buyers in two days, each ring containing a blazing, sparkling gem, set in solid gold:

Diamond ring to Mrs. C. O. Benton, South Framingham, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. M. Hackett, 1008 Washington st., Boston.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Wilkins, 412 Columbus av., Boston.
Diamond ring to Miss P. L. Prince, East Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mr. E. S. Prescott, 1 Ashland pl., Boston.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Perham, Lowell, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Julia Coburn, East Walpole, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. E. M. Nelson, Melrose, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Nellie G. Dunnon, No. 8 Day st., Cambridge.
Diamond ring to Miss Florence Matton, Bath, Me.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Horace Grant, Lynn, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Charles Swett, Bangor, Me.
Diamond ring to Miss Morgan, 131 Hampden st., Boston Highlands.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Frank Wright, 66 Webster av., Cambridgeport.
Diamond ring to Miss Foster, 18 Lynden st., South Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. F. F. Amidon, Hinsdale, N. H.
Diamond ring to Miss Nellie Murray, 14 Gardiner av., Roxbury.
Diamond ring to Mrs. J. H. Chandler, 4 James av., South Boston.
Diamond ring to Mrs. J. H. Cook, Pearl st., Dorchester, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mr. Matthew Thompson, Minneapolis, Minn.
Diamond ring to Georgie M. Trumbly, Milton, Mass.
Diamond ring to W. S. Kinmery, San Diego City, Cal.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Charles Stanwood, 129 Eustis st., Boston.
Diamond ring to Miss Ellen Carray, Boston Highlands, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Mary S. Skinner, Milford, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Katie Cheever, Essex st., Lynn, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. G. A. Gibson, Medford, Mass.
Diamond ring to E. R. Foster, Cambridge, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Porter, Waltham, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Libbey, No. 5 Groton st., Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss M. Lowell, Waltham, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Neal, south Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. H. A. Whitney, Charlestown, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. G. W. Richardson, 36 Cedar st., Boston Highlands.
Diamond ring to Miss F. E. Chase, 41 Winter st., Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Fannie E. Blake, 2 West Walnut Park, Boston Highlands.
Diamond ring to Mrs. Merrill, New England News Company, Boston.
Diamond ring to S. C. Wyman, 221 Washington st., Boston, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. G. B. Guild, Chelsea, Mass.
Diamond ring to Mrs. A. B. Martin, Providence, R. I.
Diamond ring to Mrs. E. C. Cadue, Hyde Park, Mass.
Diamond ring to Miss Diamond, Newton Lower Falls, Mass.

For the Grand List of Rosewood Pianos given to Book Buyers, call at my Book Establishment, 399 Washington st., or send postal card for my new

GREAT CATALOGUE

of books I sell for $1 and a gift with every book, and also which contains a list of over One Thousand Names of People, who have received *gifts* like the above at my New Million Dollar Book Sale, which is open every week day.

People in the country, who order by mail, will receive the same attention and the SAME GIFTS as though they attended the sale in person. Always address

A. W. LOVERING,
399 Washington Street,
BOSTON, MASS.

feb4

DARLING'S ANIMAL FERTILIZER
—AND—
FINE BONE,

ARE second to no Fertilizers now sold in New England. The demand was last year fifty per cent larger than any year before. The fact that our fertilizer contains all the chemicals required for plant food, and a larger per cent. of Phosphoric Acid than is required, which is in the form of

Pure Ground Bone,

and is well known to be very valuable for several years after the first application, should be well considered. Our prices are about 20 per cent. less than can be had from any other manufacturer, taking into consideration its chemical and agricultural value. We are prepared to furnish any amount of testimonys if desired.

DARLING'S LAWN DRESSER,

takes the lead; one application is all that is required, and you will have a beautiful lawn, with heavy growth through the season.

DARLING'S PURE GROUND BONE

as a fertilizer has within the past thirteen years established its reputation, and is the standard. BONE MEAL for Cattle, Chickens. Bone for Fowls. Also, Bone for mechanical purposes. Try our mixture for Fowls and Swine of Bone, Beef, Scraps and cracked Wheat.

Samples of any of the above sent free by addressing the manufacturers.

L. B. DARLING & CO.,
PAWTUCKET, R. I.

For sale in the principal Agricultural Warehouses in New England. Agents in Boston, WHITTEMORE BROS., HOVEY & CO., PARKER & GANNETT, JOS. BRECK & SONS, WM. E. BARRETT & CO., Providence, R. I. feb8-17t

Grass and Field Seeds.

WE are constantly receiving consignments of all grades of

TIMOTHY.
CLOVER.
ALSIKE CLOVER.
WHITE CLOVER.
HUNGARIAN.
MILLET.
GERMAN MILLET.
H. I. RED TOP.
FOWL MEADOW.
ORCHARD GRASS.
BLUE GRASS.
BARLEY.
WHEAT.
RYE.
HEMP.
FLAX.

and *EARLY and LATE PEAS* for Seed, and all grades of BEANS and PEAS for culinary purposes, which we offer at bottom prices, in lots to suit. Quotations furnished on application, and all orders shall have our best attention.

THOS. W. EMERSON & CO.,
COMMISSION MERCHANTS AND DEALERS IN
Grass and Field Seeds
124 & 126 South Market St.,
BOSTON.
feb8-12t

Horse Powers,
FOR ONE, TWO AND THREE HORSES.
MACHINES FOR
Threshing and Cleaning Grain and Sawing Wood.

Patented, Manufactured and Sold by

A. W. GRAY'S SONS,
Middletown Springs, Vt.

WHAT A FEW OF OUR PATRONS SAY OF THEM.

Adam Whitney, Fitchburg, Mass., states that he sawed with a one horse power, 27 cords of wood in 13 hours. Machine gives entire satisfaction, and easy for the horse.

E. B. Cook, of Middletown, Vt., states that A. Gates sawed by him with two-horse machine, 10 cords of wood three times in two in 9 hours.

FAIRAULT, Minn.

A. W. Gray's Sons—Gentlemen:—The machine I purchased of you is the best power I ever saw; runs the easiest and will do the most work of any machine we have here. I sawed about 3,000 cords of wood last season. I can more the machine, get it up and commence work in ten minutes. Respectfully,

MILO. C. GOODNER.

Mr. John G. Bennett, of Presque Isle, Maine, writes, he sawed with power and drag saw a birch log 26 inches in diameter in 65 seconds.

Our machines have never failed to receive the highest award at all competitive exhibitions. Circulars and Price Lists free. Address as above. feb8-4t

Oliver's Chilled Plows.

Warranted the best in the world for all kinds of land. The share is harder than any other plow metal, and perfectly uniform throughout. The fibre is remarkably fine and unlike steel and most other plow metals, the temper of it is used the better it will scour.

With the Jointer sod land can be made as mellow as old ground.

We refer to a few parties using the Plow:
Hon. Geo. B. Loring, Boston, Mass.
S. A. Hall, Revere, Mass.
Joseph Robinson, Quincy, Mass.
C. A. Lovell, So. Turner, Me.
J. B. Perkins, Mechanics Falls, Me.
J. Butler & Son, Starke, Me.
Hon. Asa Adams, Manchester, N. H.
Zachariah Shattuck, Nashua, N. H.
A. W. Wiggins, Voluntown, Conn.
Nath. Reynolds, No. Brookfield, Mass.
Geo. Madison, Warwick, R. I.
Feleg Madison, Coventry, R. I.
C. B. Mattbie, Falls Village, Conn.
J. F. Chandler, East Woodstock, Conn.
Geo. Bruce, Hartford, Conn.
Circulars with testimonials furnished on application.

WHITTEMORE BROS.,
Agricultural Warehouse and Seed Store,
128 & 130 SO. MARKET ST.
feb8-3t.

West Boston Savings Bank.

A DIVIDEND OF 15 PER CENT. will be paid to Depositors in the West Boston Savings Bank,

At No. 17 Pemberton Square,

beginning Monday, February 17, 1879, between the hours of 10 o'clock, A. M. and 3 o'clock, P. M.

LYMAN P. FRENCH, } Receivers.
CLEMENT WILLIS, }

feb8-2t

LANDS and HOMES
IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI.

1,000,000 acres of well watered, timber and prairie lands adjacent to the St. Louis and San Francisco R'y for sale, at from $2.50 to $5 per acre, on seven years' time. Excellent for stock, fruit, and agricultural purposes. Free transportation to those who purchase land. Send for maps and circulars to

W. H. COFFIN, Land Commissioner,
ST. LOUIS, MO.
feb8-13t sept6-13t

GATES' GARGET CURE.

For the Cure and Prevention of Garget in Cattle.

Teats Partially Destroyed, Restored to their Natural Condition. Ecrucia in Teats or Udder Removed Speedily and Surely. All Stringy Substances or bunches in Bag removed by from 1 to 2 bottles. Blood or Sediment in Milk, from 1 dose to 1 bottle.

SOLD BY
JOHN B. GATES,
17 Harvard St.,
WORCESTER, MASS.

If your medicine dealers do not keep the Garget Cure, send to the proprietor, at Worcester, for it. feb8-4t

ONLY $1 For TWELVE Ever-Blooming
ROSES

Strong Plants, your choice, labeled, sent *safe delivery guaranteed*, by mail. Large assortment of Flowering Plants at *Wholesale Price*. *New Tea Rose and Guide* sent *gratis on $3 orders*. Catalogue free.

INNISSALLEN GREENHOUSES, Springfield, O.
feb8-1t

The Celebrated $1000 and $500 Prize Series, 37 vols.
Ella Farman's Works.
The Pansy Books, 31 vols., which have an increasing popularity greater than any other books select for young people in this country, and
The Sunday School Libraries. Nos. 1 to 7, inclusive, 300 volumes,
The cheapest and best issued, are published by

D. LOTHROP & CO., BOSTON.

Catalogues free. feb8-1t

BETTER!
CHEAPER AND HEALTHIER
than Cream Tartar, Baking Powder, &c.
Prof. Horsford's
BREAD PREPARATION

is unsurpassed for making superior Light Bread, Biscuit, Cakes and Pastry.

The only Bread Raising material that is publicly recommended by Physicians as containing ingredients beneficial to health.

PROF. RODNEY WELCH, Lecturer on Chemistry at the Hahneman Medical College of Chicago, says: "The greatest improvement ever made in raising bread without the use of yeast is the process of Prof. Horsford of Harvard University."

If your grocer has not got it send a three cent stamp to the manufacturers for a sample.

Manufactured according to the directions of Prof. E. N. Horsford, by the Rumford Chemical Works, Providence, R. I. feb8-4t

2,000,999 *Strawberry, Raspberry, Blackberry, Currant, Grapevines, Asparagus Roots, Peach Trees.* 100 SELECTED VARIETIES. *Genuine stock. Quality best. Prices lowest.* Send for free Catalogue to JOHN S. COLLINS, Moorestown, New Jersey.
feb8-3t-1am

MAKE YOUR OWN RUGS. Something new! *TURKISH RUG PATTERNS*, stamped on burlap, filled in with old rags and yarn. Any one can make them at a small expense. *Great* inducements and permanent business to *Agents everywhere*. Send stamp for Circular of Patterns and Prices. E. S. FROST & CO., 22 Tremont Row, Boston, Mass. dec21-13t

CENTENNIAL SWIVEL PLOWS.

TRIUMPHANT EVERYWHERE!

Accepted by the New England and Maine State Agricultural Societies. Superior to any for Level Land and Hill-side.

AMES PLOW COMPANY,
Sole Makers.

Awarded all the First Prizes. Four out of Five Second Prizes, in all Eleven Prizes out of Fifteen offered at the Great Field Trial held at Presumpscot Park, Portland, Me., Thursday, Sept. 6, 1877, in competition with the leading Plows of the Eastern States.

The design of the plowing, as announced by the Societies, was "to show the merits of competing plows." The result settles the question as to which is best. The "Centennial" are now offered to the farmers of New England, warranted sound and perfect, guaranteed satisfactory in operation, and to work as represented.

QUINCY HALL, BOSTON, MASS.

☞ Liberal discount to dealers and agents. Send for circular. feb1-4t

FARMERS' FAVORITE.

EMERY GRINDER,
—FOR—
MOWERS AND REAPERS.

Patented July 10th, 1877.

Price.....$6.00.

THE ONLY PRACTICAL MACHINE FOR THE PURPOSE IN THE MARKET. *Keen Bevels and Perfect Cutting Edges insured. A four-foot Bar Ground in Ten Minutes.* The double-faced Emery Wheel is of solid best quality Emery and will wear from ten to fifteen years.

With this machine any required bevel can be given to every section ground precisely alike.

It saves time and labor; and reduces wear and tear upon the Mowing Machine.

One hour's practise will perfect a man or boy in its use, and the saving of time during the farmer's busi est season, will soon cover the first outlay.

The machine has always received the highest award wherever exhibited; First Prizes at American Institute Fair, N. Y. city, 1877; New England and Maine State Fair, 1877; New Hampshire State Fair at Manchester, 1877; Silver Medal at New England Fair, at Worcester, 1878, etc. It has the endorsement of hundreds of Farmers who have used them the past year.

An energetic Agent wanted immediately in every town. Inducements are offered for a profitable business during the winter and spring months.

Address

WOOD MANUFACTURING CO.,
12 Front Street,
WORCESTER, MASS.

jan18-tf

GREAT CHANCE!

TO get a ROOT CUTTER or CORN-SHELLER at less than wholesale prices. As we wish to reduce our stock to make room for Spring Goods, will sell so long as our stock holds out as follows, viz:

Root Cutters.

Willis' Improved Root Cutter, $10.00
Clark's No. 1 " " $8.00

BRECK'S
Premium Corn-Shellers.

No. 1—1 Balance Wheel.....$6.00
No. 2—2 " " $6.75

Above prices hold good only until March 1st, 1879.

☞ Send for Descriptive Circulars.

JOSEPH BRECK & SONS,
51, 52 & 53 North Market St.,
BOSTON.
feb1-2t

HEEBNER'S
LEVEL-TREAD POWER.

THIS celebrated machine is on exhibition with EVERETT & SMALL, South Market Street, Boston, No. 43.

Please memorandum this and call when in the city. Send for circular. GEO. B. WEAVER,
feb1-tf General Agent, Newport, R. I.

HIGHEST AWARD
—AT—
INTERNATIONAL DAIRY FAIR.

The $250 Higgins Sweepstakes Prize for best Butter made in the United States, was awarded Hiram Smith of Sheboygan Falls, Wis.

The Ashton Sweepstake of $125 for best butter made in the United States or Europe was awarded Geo. Sidney Camp, Owego, N. Y.

The First Premium for best Dairy Butter made in New York State was awarded John S. Morrell, N. Y.

Both used the Cooley Creamers.

☞ Send stamp for Circulars to

VT. FARM MACHINE CO.,
Bellows Falls, Vt.

Grand Medical Discovery

By its great and thorough blood-purifying properties, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery cures all Humors, from the worst Scrofula to a common Blotch, Pimple, or Eruption. Mercurial disease, Blood Poisons, Syphilitic affections, and eradicated, and vigorous health and a sound constitution established. Dyspepsia, Sick-Headache, Biliousness, Torpid Liver or Rough Skin, in short, all diseases caused by bad blood, are conquered by this powerful, purifying, and invigorating medicine.

Especially has it manifested its potency in curing Tetter, Rose Rash, Boils, Carbuncles, Sore Eyes, Scrofulous Sores and Swellings, White Swellings, Goitre or Thick Neck, and Enlarged Glands.

If you feel dull, drowsy, debilitated, have sallow color of skin, or yellowish-brown spots on face or body, frequent headache or dizziness, fits of indigestion, internal heat or chills alternated with hot flashes, low spirits, and gloomy forebodings, irregular appetite, and tongue coated, you are suffering from Torpid Liver, or "Biliousness." In many cases of this character, a few bottles of this wonderful medicine are experienced. As a remedy for all such cases, Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery has no equal, as it effects perfect and radical cures.

In the cure of Bronchitis, Severe Coughs, and the early stages of Consumption, it has astonished the medical faculty, and eminent physicians pronounce it the greatest medical discovery of the age. While it cures the severest Coughs, it strengthens the system and purifies the blood. Sold by druggists.

By R. V. PIERCE, M. D., Prop'r, World's Dispensary and Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y.

HENS LAY.

TO MAKE your Hens lay and Pigs grow, feed ANIMAL MEAL, made from fresh meat and dried bones, and ground to a sweet meal, which Fowls and Pigs eat greedily, and which stimulates laying in Hens and vigorous healthy growth in Pigs. Four to eight quarts is a sufficient quantity to mix with a bushel of common meal or shorts, and feed as you would ordinarily feed the meal or shorts. Trial bag, containing 15 lbs., 50 cents; 30 lbs., $1.00; 100 lbs., 2.50. Send for circular containing testimonials from practical men who have used it.

Also, for sale, CATTLE BONE, said to prevent abortion in Cows. 10 lb bag, 50 cents; 100 lbs., $3.00.

Also, CHICKEN BONE, $2.00 per 100 lbs.

GROUND OYSTER SHELLS, 75 cents per 100 lbs, and a full line of Special Feeds for Cattle, Swine and Poultry.

W. H. BOWKER & CO.,
43 Chatham St., Boston,
3 Park Place, N. Y.

dec7-tf

THE HARWOOD CHAIR SEAT,
Official Report

Of the Judges on Furniture and Upholstery at the late Exhibition of the Mass. Charitable Mechanic Association:

"J. A. & N. Harwood. Material for Chair Seats. This exhibit consists of a new and original article for the seats of all kinds of chairs and settees. It is made from the strongest fibres of Manila, and appears to be superior to wood in strength, durability, elasticity, cheapness, beauty and finish. It resists the action of water indefinitely, is very easily worked, and will not split or crack. It is beautifully finished in a variety of drop, rich colors, and has a polished or grained surface which can scarcely be distinguished from the finest Russia or Morocco leathers. It appears in all respects eminently well adapted to the purposes intended, and its production is an entirely new feature and opens fresh and wide fields of industry. We are clearly of the opinion that it constitutes a valuable and meritorious invention and accordingly award a GOLD MEDAL."

JUDGES.

ANDREW LAWRENCE, HENRY C. MORSE,
HENRY HALL, ARLON M. WARNER.

ESPECIALLY ADAPTED FOR RE-SEATING.

Ask your Cabinet Maker for it.

Manufactured only by

J. A. & N. HARWOOD,
50 High St., Boston.

jan25-4t

NO MORE RHEUMATISM OR GOUT
ACUTE OR CHRONIC
SALICYLICA
SURE CURE.

Manufactured only under the above Trade-Mark by the

European Salicylic Medicine Co.,
OF PARIS AND LEIPZIG.

IMMEDIATE RELIEF WARRANTED. PERMANENT CURE GUARANTEED. Now exclusively used by all celebrated Physicians of Europe and America, becoming a Staple Harmless, and Reliable Remedy on all continents. The Highest Medical Academy of Paris report 95 cures out of 100 cases within three days. Secret—The only dissolver of the poisonous Uric Acid which exists in the Blood of Rheumatic and Gouty Patients. $1.00 a Box; 6 Boxes for $5.00. Sent to any address on receipt of price. ENDORSED BY PHYSICIANS. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS. Circulars free.

WASHBURNE & CO.,
Only Importers' Depot,
23 CLIFF ST., NEW YORK.

For sale by WEEKS & POTTER, Boston. feb1

E. D. SPEAR.
THE OLD INDIAN DOCTOR,
So Much Celebrated for his Remarkable Cures.

May be consulted on all diseases free of charge or by letter, with stamp. Dr. Spear has demonstrated that barks, herbs and roots, scientifically compounded will CURE ALL CURABLE DISEASES without leaving a life-long poison in the blood, as do mercury, arsenic and the other mineral drugs which the allopaths and homœpaths prepare the most of their medicines. This is especially important to young people. Dr. SPEAR'S PERSONAL ATTENTION will be given to every patient. Office 897 Washington St., Boston, Mass.

Rev. E. H. McKeuney of Saugus Centre, (late of Lynn, Mass., and Eliot, Me.,) writes to Zion's Herald: "I kept on spitting blood every few weeks, when I found myself so weak that I could not walk without a cane. As I prayed, the Lord directed my mind to Dr. E. D. Spear of Boston. I bled but once after commencing treatment."

Wm. J. Gilbert, of North Reading, had been sick a year, looked on by his friends and physician as past hoping aid. Called Dr. Spear to see him. This was in August, 1875. He is strong to-day.

Charles W. Doe, at Marblehead, had bleeding from the lungs for three years; had given up all hope, applied to Dr. Spear. This was two years ago. He is hard at work; does not lose a day from sickness.

Many other names could be given, but people cannot stop to read long statements. If any one doubts the efficacy of Dr. Spear's medicines, let them write (enclosing stamp) to either of the above names and get their opinion.

☞ Send stamp to Dr. Spear for his Medical Hand Book.

DR. SPEAR may be consulted on ALL Diseases free of charge; or by letter, with stamp. Office, 897 Washington St., Boston. jan4-13t

The Medical Record, Dexter Smith, Editor, mailed for 6 cts. Circulates 20,000 per Month. Music, News, &c. $2.00 per year.

OLIVER DITSON & CO., Boston.
feb1-tc

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Purgative Pellets
SIZE OF PELLETS.
THE "LITTLE GIANT" CATHARTIC.

No use of taking the large, repulsive, nauseous pills, composed of cheap, crude, and bulky ingredients. These Pellets are scarcely larger than mustard seed. Being entirely vegetable, no particular care is required while using them. They operate without disturbance to the constitution, diet, or occupation. For Sudden Attacks of Headache, Dizziness, Nausea, Biliousness, Pain in the Shoulders, Fullness of the Chest, Dyspepsia, Sour Eructations from the Stomach, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Bilious attacks, Pain in regions of Kidneys, Internal Fever, Blood Settling to Head or Kidneys, Internal Piles, Blood Settling to Head, take Dr. Pierce's Tomach Bitters. By explanation, with the Pleasant Purgative Pellets. In explanation of the remedial power of these Purgative Pellets over so great a variety of diseases, it may be said that their action upon the natural economy is universal, not a gland or tissue escaping their sanative influence. Age and size impair the properties of these Pellets. They are sugar-coated and inclosed in glass bottles, hermetically sealed, thereby preserving their virtues for any length of time, in any climate, so that they are always fresh and reliable. This is the only pill that is put up in cheap wooden or pasteboard boxes. For all diseases where the Female Alterative, or Purgative, is indicated, these little Pellets will give the most perfect satisfaction. Sold by druggists.

By R. V. PIERCE, M. D., Prop'r, World's Dispensary and Invalids' Hotel, Buffalo, N. Y.

CATARRH

SYMPTOMS.—Frequent headache, discharge falling into the throat, s

The Poet's Corner.

THE GOLD OF HOPE.

BY HENRY BURTON.

Bright shines the sun, but brighter after rain;
The clouds that darken make the sky more clear;
So rest is sweeter when it follows pain,
And the sad parting makes our friends more dear.

'Tis well it should be thus: our Father knows
The things that work together for our good;
We draw a sweetness from our bitter woes—
We would not have all sunshine if we could.

The days with all their beauty and their light
Come from the dark and into dark return;
Day speaks of earth, but heaven shines through the night
Where in the blue a thousand star-fires burn.

So runs the law, the law of recompense,
That binds our life on earth and heaven in one;
Faith cannot live when all is sight and sense,
But faith can live and sing when these are gone.

We grieve and murmur, for we can but see
The single thread that flies in silence by;
When if we only saw the things to be,
Our lips would breathe a song and not a sigh.

Wait, then, my soul, and edge the darkening cloud
With the bright gold that Hope can always lend;
And if to-day thou art with sorrow bowed,
Wait till to-morrow and thy grief shall end!

And when we reach the limit of our days,
Beyond the reach of shadows and of night,
Then shall our every look and voice be praise
To Him who shines our everlasting light.

—*Sunday Afternoon.*

Ladies' Department.

Written expressly for the Massachusetts Ploughman.

THE LOST INDIAMAN.

An Original Story.

BY "CORPORAL SQUIB."

Author of "A Trip Southward;" "Nautica Sketches;" "Corporal Squib on the Farm;" "David and I," etc.

[Continued from last week.]

CHAPTER XXIV.

Ah, dear heart, we must wait! we must wait!

But oh, the waiting! the waiting! and the untold hopes that may never be realized!

Poor Mary Fletcher!—she had waited before, but she had never waited in such agony as now.

Of course she had not much hope of hearing from Nathan until he could write home by some returning ship after reaching his distant port. And as he was going to those almost unknown islands of the vast western ocean, he would be months longer in reaching that port than ever before. So she waited, almost patiently, till a year was almost gone; and then she began to wonder why the Princess was not heard from.

"I told you, Mary, how it would be," said Martha, one day. "You never know where these sailors are, or whether they will ever come back."

The thoughtless words brought a flood of tears to Mary's eyes; and then the loving sister fell upon her neck and begged forgiveness for having uttered them.

"Don't cry, Mary!" she said; "don't cry! Nathan will come after a while, and then he will be all right. But I do wish he wouldn't go on sea any more—it makes you so unhappy."

"Oh, Martha, if I could only hear from him!" sobbed Mary. "It is twelve months to-day since he went away, and no word has come."

"Well, Mary, I guess you will hear from him before long, now; at any rate I wouldn't cry."

A whole year had now gone by since the Princess last sailed away, and the owners themselves were alarmed because no tidings had come. No wonder that Mary was cast down. She grew pale and thin, with all her watching and all her waiting. With the first light of every morning she was out upon that little hillock whence she had beheld Nathan's answering signal, looking out, in the dim dawn, upon the sea. And yet she knew there was hardly a possibility that the Princess would again appear until she had first heard from Nathan. Yet she went there to look every morning; and every pleasant evening, with the going down of the sun, she was there. And she was growing pale and thin. Ah, the agony of such waiting!

"We must wait. Yes, Nathan, we must wait."

She remembered those words that she had spoken to him, and a thousand times each day they were repeated in her heart. "We must wait. Yes, Nathan, we must wait." She could not keep those words out of mind. "Oh, Nathan!" she sighed, "must I, too, wait always thus for you?"

And month after month of another year went by, but Nathan did not come. There was no word from the Princess, nor any tidings had been seen since she had passed the Cape of Good Hope on her outward way. Month after month, and that suspense of waiting turned into almost a certainty that the ship would never be heard of more. Mary was but a shadow of her former self; but with a spirit strong to uphold the frail body, she failed not to perform every duty as before, and there were times when she seemed almost cheerful. Martha's affection knew no bounds, and her sympathy was a strength to her sister's support. She drew the loving sister more closely to her side with each passing day, feeling more and more how necessary she would now be to her very existence.

"He may yet come, Mary," Martha would say. "He may yet come. You know he was going where he couldn't very well get back, if anything should happen,—if the ship should be cast away, you know. I shouldn't give up expecting to see him again, even if he shouldn't come for a year or two. You know it takes shipwrecked people a good while to get home, sometimes. It may be a good thing for him, too, Mary; for he wouldn't be so likely to go to sea again, you know, after being shipwrecked."

Mary felt the truth of all this, but the thought that Nathan's ship might only have been wrecked, did not at all relieve her mind. It left a hope that he might be still alive, and that he might sometime return, but that was all. The good parson, too, was not lacking in consolatory words—words of comfort and hope. He saw—or professed to see, at least, that in this dispensatory lesson, Providence was only striving to teach Mary a trustful patience, and that all would be well in the end. "To rightly understand these things, Mary," he said, "we should look beyond this short life. With the eye of faith we may see a never-ending vista of happiness beyond, to which patience and a trustful endurance will surely lead. I have yet great hope that Nathan will return to you here, Mary, but even if he should not, the promise that has been given us of a hereafter ought surely to be enough to lift every weight."

"Oh, sir, I have not faith enough to find comfort in that!" sighed Mary, sadly. "Oh, sir, one moment with Nathan on earth would be more to me than all the joys of heaven! I am a poor, weak mortal—only a poor, weak mortal now,—what I want is Nathan here."

"Ah, Mary! it is not well to speak thus—it is not well! It is because of this feeling, I fear, that the lesson must be taught. You know, surely, that the loving parent must at times chastise, in order that the child may not suffer from its own willfulness?"

"Oh, yes, I know all that; but I cannot see—I cannot see the need of such lessons as these! I cannot see why we should be made so to suffer only because we long for happiness; it is more than I can understand."

"To give you greater happiness, my child; to give you greater happiness. Believe me, Mary, God knows best. We are but children—poor, short-sighted children, who do not know what is best for ourselves. You should have more faith, Mary, in that good Parent, who surely would not afflict you needlessly. Do you know that it is only by contrast that we have any joy at all? Possibly it may be, then, that the greater the affliction here, the greater will be the joy hereafter."

"Oh, my good sir, all I want is Nathan here! That hereafter is so dim and distant, I can find no comfort there."

"Ah, Mary, you are young yet, and it looks distant; but a few short years, at the most, will bring it near. In a few short years this little fleeting life will be gone, and you will stand upon the threshold of the great unending life that is to come. It is to us for that life, Mary, that God has placed us here. If we could but receive all His lessons patiently, how greatly we should be profited only the Father himself can tell. Strive to be cheerful, Mary,—for Nathan may come back to you, even here. Indeed I yet hope that he will."

And so the good parson tried to comfort Mary, in his way. But all that he said did not lighten her poor heart at all, and she grew pale and thin. She sent to Salem by every one who was going there, to make inquiry if the Princess had yet been heard from, and as often as once in every month at least she went there herself, to talk with the owners of the ship. But they could give her no hope.

When the second winter had passed, and the ship had been gone a full year and a half, the owners counted her as lost. When they told Mary they had no longer any hope of seeing the ship again, it seemed as if she had hardly strength to go home. She sat for a time in mute despair; and then, finding relief in a flood of tears, she said that she should never cease to hope that those who had gone in the ship would at last return. Touched by her emotion, the owners spoke to her very kindly, and promised that if any word from the lost ship should ever come she should at once be informed.

So the ship was counted as lost, though there was still a hope that some of her crew might yet return. "We must wait, Nathan; we must wait," was still the one thought that was almost constantly in Mary's mind. Those words seemed to have been graven there by an iron hand, and she could not get rid of them. She thought that she had been cruel in uttering them; and every time that thought came, she would sink down and weep.

And all through the summer that followed—the second summer since the Princess had last sailed away—Mary went every pleasant morning to where she had seen Nathan's answering signal, and looked out upon the sea. She did this so long, and was so constant in those morning visits, that Martha became alarmed for her, and went to the good parson alone one day on purpose to tell her fears. Then the parson went again and talked with Mary, in such a way that she could not fail to understand why he had come. He told her as kindly as he could that she ought not to let her mind dwell too much on Nathan's absence, for it not only pained her sister and all her friends to see her so giving way to sorrow, but it would gradually unfit her for the duties of life that she had to perform.

These words, though kindly intended, added to Mary's misery. It seemed hard to her that she could not indulge her sorrow without causing pain and disquiet to others. But, for Martha's sake, she resolved to cease those morning visits and try to be more cheerful. And yet, although she did not go there in the morning as before, scarce a pleasant day passed in which she did not, at some time between the rise and set of the sun, find her way to that little hillock, and look out thence upon the sea. And always when she turned away, without having seen what she sought, she would say to herself in a low sad tone, "We must wait, Nathan; we must wait."

She scarce noticed the changing seasons—the budding of the spring-time, the blossoming of the summer, or the fading of the leaves and the waning of the autumn days; but she saw every storm-cloud that rose and cast its shadow over the sea, and she heard every wail of the tempest that rocked her lonely dwelling at night. Her heart was in one constant prayer for Nathan, that he might be saved from all tempests, and brought back to her once more. Alas, poor waiting heart!

On one of the last of those autumn days, Mary was at home alone, busied with her household affairs, which she attended to in a dreamy sort of way, thinking all the while of Nathan, and imagining all sorts of things that might have happened to prevent his return, when Martha came in, a little flushed and excited, and handed her a letter. Martha had been to the village store where the Post Office was kept, and the letter had been given her to bring to Mary. Letters were not so common then as now, and it was a rare thing that either of the sisters received one; so rare, indeed, that when Mary saw what Martha had in her hand, she felt a faintness, and a fear that in that letter there were evil things.

Martha handed it to her, and she sat down, too daring to open it; for now she saw that it came from Salem. Within it were tidings of Nathan—she felt sure of that—but she dared not open it to see what they were. Any tidings coming in a letter she felt sure must be ill, and it was long before she had courage to open the letter. Nor did she open it herself, but, handing it back to Martha at last, she asked her to see what was in it.

Martha's own hands trembled as she broke the seal; for she was sure as was Mary that there were tidings of Nathan. But she opened the letter, and looked first at the name that was signed to it. "It's nobody we know, Mary," she said.

"Let me see," said Mary now; and looking on the open sheet which Martha handed her, she saw written in a large and rather rough hand, "*Your humble servant,* JASON CREELER."

"Creeler is the name of one of the owners of the Princess," said Mary, faintly. "It was his son that was second mate. Read the letter, Martha."

Complying with the request, Martha read:

"SALEM, Nov. 15th, 1797.

"MY DEAR MISS FLETCHER:

"The circumstances under which I write, will, I trust, be a sufficient excuse for a stranger's thus addressing you. In being the bearer of unwelcome news, my feelings towards you can be none other than those of the utmost respect and sympathy."

A gasp and a moan from Mary caused Martha to drop the letter. She sprang to her fainting sister's side, and supported the drooping head. Then, with the strength that came for the occasion, she bore her to her bed, and applying such restoratives as were at hand, she brought her back to consciousness. Uttering another moan, Mary opened her eyes, and resting them on the sister who was bending over her, she said, "Read it all, Martha; read it all; it cannot be that he is dead!"

"Wait a little, Mary; wait a little," said Martha tenderly; "I will read it, bye-and-bye."

"I have waited, Martha! I have waited! Oh, I have waited—waited—for this!" and a flood of tears relieved her overcharged feelings.

Martha knew that it was better for Mary to weep, and she did not try to check those tears. But they ceased to flow, at last, and then Mary seemed so calm that Martha did not fear to read the letter aloud to its end. Repeating what she had already read, she continued:—

"I hardly know how to say what I have to say—indeed I suppose there is no way in which I can say it that will not cause you pain—for I bring sad news of Mr. Woodman, to whom, as he himself told me, you were to have been married on his return from this last fatal voyage. The Princess was wrecked, on a shoal of the Pacific, and all but the Captain, Mr. Woodman, myself and one foremost hand, were swept overboard and drowned. We four escaped to an island, not far off, where the Captain soon died, of over-exertion in helping to build a boat for our further escape. It was an island on which no human being had probably ever before set foot,—a dismal, desolate place, and it produced nothing to sustain life. But we had fortunately saved a few months' supply of provisions from the wreck.

Mr. Woodman and myself had great hopes of finally escaping to the island of Timor, in a boat of our own construction—for the ship's boats had been carried away and we had reached the island on a raft—and we did succeed in almost completing a boat, when it was set adrift by a fearful earthquake, and in endeavoring to recover it, Mr. Woodman was carried out to sea in it, and was lost. I fear he met a dreadful death; for there was nothing in the boat to sustain him but a little fresh water, and we were thousands of miles from any civilized land.

"Finally, through the providential arrival of a Dutch East Indiaman, myself and the other man were rescued and carried to Rotterdam; from whence we finally succeeded in reaching home. In escaping, I was so fortunate as to bring away from the island all of Mr. Woodman's effects that he had saved from the wreck, and having been casually informed by him that he had made a will, conveying all his estate to you in case he should never return, I thought it my duty to at once write and appraise you of these sad circumstances, and place such of Mr. Woodman's effects as I have brought home, at your disposal. I shall be happy to receive from you any commands regarding those goods, and also to relate, in person, any further particulars you may wish to learn regarding Mr. Woodman's sad fate. Meantime I remain, with much respect, Your humble servant,

JASON CREELER."

A groan of deepest anguish followed the last words, and Mary sank back as if she had been dead. Martha sprang again to her side,—but consciousness had not gone, and the poor crushed heart soon revived. "Oh, Martha! Martha!" she sighed, and clasped her sister's hands. "Martha, he is dead!—starved!"

With those words the power of utterance failed her, and she could only weep. How tenderly the loving sister strove to cheer her, in beyond the power of pen to portray. In the two years that Mary had been waiting for Nathan, growing thin and pale, Martha had grown strong both in body and mind. She had more power for physical endurance than her sister, and a singularly clear, quick mind. But she had a tender, loving heart, and the accents with which she strove to soothe her sister were as gentle as those of an angel. It seemed to Mary then as if her sister's love was all she had to sustain her, and she clung to her, weeping, as a sobbing child will sometimes cling to its mother. "Oh, Martha! Martha! he is dead!" she repeated again and again.

It required some little time for Mary's mind to so recover from the terrible shock that she could think and speak calmly. Then Martha thought it might be well to at once acquaint their good guardian—or her guardian, the parson—for Mary, though an infant in legal phrase, when Nathan went away, had now attained her majority and could act for herself—with the news that had come, so that he might advise Mary what to do. But Mary said, "No, Martha, not to-day. Oh, I cannot speak to any one—to any one but you, to-day! Oh, I could not bear a word of comfort—such comfort—as his! Oh, Martha, you are all the comfort that is left to me now! Don't tell Mr. ——— to-day!"

"No, Mary, I'll not tell him at all, unless you wish me to. I don't think he could say a word that would cheer you; but I thought it might be better for him to know, on account of—of Nathan's things, that Mr. Creeler brought home."

"Oh, Martha! I am so thankful! They will be mine, won't they." Oh, I have that, indeed, to be thankful for! They will be mine!

"Yes, Mary, they will be yours," Martha replied, though not so quickly as she would have done had not her quick mind perceived that the possession of these things would only serve to prolong Mary's grief. She almost wished, now, for Mary's sake, that Creeler had not brought them home. "His things will be yours, Mary," she said; "and it is fortunate, now, that he made a will."

"Oh, Martha! Martha! do not speak of that—do not—I cannot bear to think of it now! He is dead! starved! Oh, Martha! Martha!" and clasping her sister more tightly to her, she wept more bitter tears.

CHAPTER XXV.

And now the waiting was ended; the one small hope that had been left to Mary was gone. It seemed to her as if all the light of her life had gone out with it; leaving only a dark, voidless space, through which she must pass—to the grave. Through the weary hours of night she was thinking always of Nathan, lost—dying of starvation on a boundless sea. She could not sleep, till the night was almost gone, but then she fell into a slumber from which she did not wake till the sun had risen, and was throwing its slant rays across the waters of the bay.

It was a cool, bracing morning, and to feel its reviving influence Mary went out into the free air. Almost unconsciously her steps led her to that little hillock where she had spread the shawl and beheld Nathan's answering signal. And there, unconsciously to herself perhaps, she sank upon her knees, as she had sank upon them that other morning, and with her face turned towards that same quarter of the sea, she raised her clasped hands in prayerful agony of spirit. "Gone! gone!" she murmurred at last. "Oh, Heavenly Father, give me strength to bear the loss!"

Martha had followed her, and now she came and put her arms gently round her and raised her up. "Mary, I want you to love me, now," she said, imprinting a kiss on Mary's thin cheek.

"Forgive me, Martha! forgive me! I will love you; and I will try to live, for your sake. Yes, Martha, I will try to be even cheerful, for you." But the words came with a sad, sad sigh.

"We must live for each other, Mary; I have none to love, but you! You must love me, Mary,—or I shall be more miserable, even, than you are now. Oh, Mary, I will be to you all that a sister can be!" and now Martha's utterance was choked by her emotion.

"Martha! Martha! Come, let us go home. I have been cruel—Martha, in seeming to love him so much more than I loved you. Come, let us go home, and live for each other."

And then, holding each other by the hand, the sisters went back beneath their lowly roof, each filled with the one holy purpose of thenceforth devoting her own life to the other's happiness. Ah, believe me, it is not always in the homes of those of high degree that the purest and warmest affections of the heart spring forth!

At an early hour of that same day Mary went, accompanied by Martha, to consult with her reverend friend the parson. Others in the village had already got news that the Princess had been heard from, and a rumor to that effect had that very morning come to the good pastor's ears. He was on the point of going out to seek confirmation of that rumor, when the sisters were announced by his worthy wife. Mary's face told of the evil tidings she bore. The good man was quick to read it, and the mournful look that was there seemed to be reflected back upon his own kindly visage. Mary sank into a chair without speaking, and he, as silently, clasped her hands in his. Neither of them seemed able to utter a word.

"Mary," said he, at length, "I need not ask you—I know I need not ask you—to tell so painful a story. I can imagine what it is; for I had heard that there were tidings of the Princess."

"Oh, sir, he is dead! starved! all alone, in a boat at sea!"

She grasped forth the words and her face fell upon his hands. He felt the hot tears that wet them, and would have turned away to hide his own face from sight, but she held him fast. "Mary! Mary!" he said with a choking utterance, "may our good Father give you strength!"

A deep sob was the only reply, and she grasped his hands still more tightly. Martha went to the other side and put an arm gently round her. "Mary, she said, "you promised to love me. Don't you know—you promised to be even cheerful, for me?"

Then the weeping one released the hands she held, and, in silence, returned her sister's gentle embrace. The good pastor's wife stood, with dimmed eyes, looking on. "You shouldn't take it so much to heart, deary," that good woman now said. "Your own brother was drowned, you know, and almost all of our folks have had friends lost at sea. You shouldn't take it so much to heart, deary; it's what we've all been through."

It's an old saying that misery loves company, and no doubt the good woman really thought to comfort Mary by reminding her that others had been lost at sea besides Nathan; but calling to mind first her father, as it did, the remark was rather served to deepen Mary's misery, if that were possible.

"Oh, yes! father—Nathan—both—lost!" Oh, the sea! why would they go upon it? It swallows up everything—all we love—everything! Oh, it is so treacherous! And yet—if it would only take me now—"

"Mary!" said Martha, in an admonitory tone and quickly placing a hand over her sister's mouth—"Mary, have you forgotten me?" Without replying she sank again into her sister's arms and sobbed out her agony.

But she became calm enough to talk more rationally at last, and then she showed the parson Creeler's letter, which she had brought with her, and when he had read it, she asked what she had best do.

"No doubt," said the parson, "you will wish to see this Mr. Creeler himself, and learn all there is to be learned of Nathan. And it will be a mournful satisfaction to you—I can well understand—to have those things that belonged to Nathan in your possession. The will, too, which it seems as if Providence did indeed put it into the mind of Nathan to make, must now be given to the Judge of Probate, and the legal forms gone through with, before you can take possession of any part of his estate. A visit to Salem will therefore be necessary, and I will go with you, Mary, on the day appointed for the next Probate Court, which will be only two weeks from next Monday."

"Oh, good sir, I cannot wait two long weeks," said Mary.

"Well, then, the distance is not so great that I may not well go twice, rather than you should wait—poor heart! after all your waiting—and I will go with you—even to-morrow, if you wish."

"Oh, yes, I do wish it!—and you are so kind—I can never thank you enough!"

"Indeed, Mary, so trifling a service is hardly deserving of thanks. It is no great matter to go to Salem, you know. Old Jeannette needs exercise, and her back is still strong enough to carry two. No doubt she will be glad to eat a measure of oats in Salem once more. We will set out early—say by eight o'clock,—if that will not be too early for you?"

"Oh, no! not too early for me. I would rather start even earlier than that."

But the parson thought eight o'clock would be early enough. His good wife insisted, though, that both the sisters should come over and take breakfast with them and that Martha should stay with her till Mary came back. It would save them the trouble of getting breakfast, she said, and it would be a little lonely for her with her good man away; and as the good man himself thought that would be an excellent arrangement, that was what they decided to do.

Mary's mind was thus diverted, for the moment, from her great sorrow, and an appearance of something like cheerfulness returned to her. She said to Martha that they would go past the Post Office in going home, for possibly there would be another letter there. But when they reached the Post Office, she had not the courage to go in, and Martha went on for her. And there was another letter, and it was from Salem, but in a hand-writing different from that of the first letter. Mary only glanced at it, and then, clasping it tightly, she hurried home.

This letter was written in a fair business-like hand, and was, after all, only a formal announcement from the owners of the Princess, that two survivors of the crew of that ill-fated ship had at last returned, bringing intelligence of the loss of all the others. It merely stated the facts, and closed with a few formal words of condolence, which fell chillingly on Mary's heart. Oh, how little, she thought, could those men know of all her sorrow!

The last days of autumn are of themselves saddening. The bared earth and the dashed forests, the bleak winds and the waning sunlight can hardly fail to cast a dreary impress on the sensitive mind. This autumn day, that opened so brightly, changed to one of those bleak, chilling, depressing November days that we have all experienced. Cold looking clouds came up from the northward, and cast their gloomy shadows over the earth, and over the sea that lay before the sisters' door. And the wind, too, whispered mournfully around the corners of their lowly dwelling. When they had returned, it seemed to Mary and Martha, both, as if they had never known so mournful a day. "I am going to write to Aunt Huldah, now, Mary," said Martha, towards its close, "and see if we can't go and live with her. This is such a lonely, dreary place, now,—and there is nothing more that we need stay here for."

Aunt Huldah was the farmer's wife, of whom Martha had once spoken, and who lived far away—it seemed so to them—beyond the Green Mountains, in the State of Vermont.

"Write if you wish to, Sister," said Mary, "but I don't know how I could ever go away from here, gloomy and desolate as the dear old place now seems. Father bought the place, and lived here, you know; and Mother died here. And—and—Nathan—

"Oh, Martha, I cannot go away! They have made this place sacred! It would break my heart to leave it!"

"Well, Mary, I will not urge you to leave it. It is a dear old place, to be sure. We have seen happy days here,—and I shall always love the old place for that, wherever I go. But it seems so gloomy here, now—I can't help thinking it would be pleasanter for us to be with Aunt Huldah. I will at least write to her; for it would be so pleasant to hear from her."

"Oh yes, Martha! write to her, to be sure. It *would* be pleasanter for you to be with her, I suppose. Write, and tell her we have heard of Nathan. Tell her I have no one left but you now. Where you go, Martha, I must go. But—write what you will."

And so Martha spent the remaining hours of daylight in writing to that distant aunt. She had not seen her for years,—indeed not since she was a little child, but she remembered just how she had looked then,—the pleasant face, the kindly voice, the tender caress,—and she knew from the letters that had come from her that she was still a good, kind aunt. It was a pleasure to have such an aunt to write to; and but for that sad news she had to tell, she would have enjoyed the task of writing. Always when thus engaged, pleasant visions would come up,—visions of woods, rivers, lakes and broad fields, as the aunt had described them in letters to her. They were pleasant visions, and she had for years longed to see the reality. Now, though she loved the old place—perhaps as much as Mary loved it—and had the most tender regard for Mary's feelings, she felt that the time had come when it would be better for them both to leave it, and go and live nearer to this good, kind aunt. The letter was written, sealed and directed that night, so that Mary might take it with her to Salem in the morning.

And before the sun had risen the next morning they were on the way to the parson's house. But though the hour was so early, the good dame had breakfast all ready on their arrival. The parson's chicken-roost had been laid under contribution for that morning's breakfast; for probably he thought that no food would be more likely to tempt the appetite of a poor sorrowing maiden than the tender white breast of a young fowl. It was a nice, tempting breakfast to sit down to, and with all her sorrow, that walk in the bracing morning air had so aroused Mary's appetite that she could partake of it with some relish.

The clock had not yet struck eight when the parson led out old Jeannette, ready saddled, and, mounting first, helped Mary to a seat on the pillion behind him. She sat there herself with her side to his back, and an arm passed lightly round his waist, as all our good grandmothers used to ride in the olden time. What a pleasure it must have been for a young swain to have ridden thus, with his girl behind him! It isn't likely she would fall off, with her arm round him that way. We have lost some good things, with all our modern improvements.

The parson, from his saddle, gave some instructions to his wife, and then took leave of her and Martha as solemnly as if he were to be gone a month; though he told the good dame that she might look for his return by nightfall, for he did not like to be on the road after dark.

"Good-bye, Mary! Don't forget to put the letter in the Post Office!" called Martha, as they set out.

"I will not forget the letter, Martha. Good-bye!" and Mary kissed her hand in a final adieu.

"To whom has Martha written?" asked the good parson, as he started Jeannette into a gentle trot. Had he not been a parson, and had not Martha been under his charge, probably he would not have asked such a question; but as it was, he felt that perhaps he ought to know.

"To Aunt Huldah," Mary replied. "It seemed so lonely after we got home yesterday, that she thought she would write to Aunt. She thinks she would like to go and live with her, now."

"Ah, yes; she still has that longing to go to Vermont. I have no doubt she would find a good home with her aunt; but would she be willing to go, Mary, without you?"

"I don't know. I don't know; but—she *cannot* go without me! I shall have to go where she goes, now, for I could not live without her."

"She is a good sister, Mary,—a good sister, and I don't wonder that you feel, now, as if you could not live without her. And for myself—I could ill spare either of you. It would be very lonely here if you were both to go away. I don't know why, Mary, but you and she have come to seem almost like my own children. I do hope, indeed, that Martha will not think seriously of really going away."

"I fear, sir, that she does think seriously of it. She has been wishing to go to Vermont so long, and it seems so lonely there at home, now. She really thinks, too, that it would be better for us to go."

"I am sorry she does, Mary,—really sorry; for Martha is very persistent in holding to her opinions. Probably she has not given the matter the calm consideration it ought to have. It would be a very serious thing, indeed, to give up the old homestead and remove to Vermont. There are no doubt many things of which you would both feel the need, that you would be deprived of there. It is a new country, Mary, and Martha can hardly understand, yet, what a new country is. I am sorry that it is not more easy to reason with her when she becomes possessed of such ideas, or I might show her wherein she is wrong. But I will at least speak to her and learn all her views in the matter, and at the same time tell her my own; for I do hope, Mary, that neither of you will go away."

Mary assured the good man that she had no wish to go, and that the old place, although it had become so gloomy, seemed dearer to her than ever before;—and talking thus, they jogged along. The parson never hurried Jeannette. She had grown old in his service; but he had never hurried her beyond the slow, ambling pace at which they now rode. To weddings and to funerals, on matters of life or death, it was always the same; he never spoke impatiently to his mare or hurried her out of that slow, staid pace. So they now jogged quietly along, and, in rather more than two hour's time, they entered Salem.

[To be continued.]

A HISTORIAN'S WIFE.

[From the London Athenæum, Jan. 11.]

Mrs. Grote was one of the most remarkable women of her time. She was so well skilled in music as to be able to accompany voices and play from an orchestral score without the aid of a pianoforte accompaniment. Her conversational powers were great; she was well versed in the history of her own language, and in speaking would make a point of selecting words of Anglo-Saxon origin, in preference to Latin or French. This fondness was due to her family, the Lewins, claiming a Saxon pedigree, a pedigree of which she was prond. Hence she was by no means ready to accept the suggestion of a family antiquary, who told her he believed the name was derived from Llewellyn. In literature, Mrs. Grote was occasionally a contributor to the Westminster Review, and to the Spectator. In 1854 she reprinted her "Notice of the Life of Thomas Moore" for private circulation, "as she intended to offer it to the readers of the Edinburgh Review," and in 1861 her "Collected Papers" were published in one volume. A very characteristic paper is that in which she gives an account of her residence at East Burnham and long warfare with the stewards of Lady Grenville. Her "Memoir of the Life of Ary Scheffer" attained to a second edition within a year, and her "Personal Life of George Grote" has met with still greater success, owing to the more general interest felt in her subject. Mrs. Grote also indited her husband's minor works.

In earlier days, especially during the agitation for passing the reform bill, Mrs Grote acquired the *sobriquet* of "The Queen of the Radicals," because so many prominent liberal politicians mingled with authors and artists at her evening parties. Not only such whigs as the Marquis of Lansdowne, but also Mr. Roebuck, the Mills, Austins, Charles Buller, Sir William and Lady Molesworth, Hallam, Bunsen, Sir G. Cornewall and Lady Lewis were among the frequenters of her drawing-rooms. On her first arrival in this country, Mlle. Jenny Lind was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Grote, and not unfrequently contributed the aid of her powerful talent to the attractiveness of their evenings. Moscheles, Mendelssohn, Chopin and Thalberg were among her visitors. In fact she was eminently popular with musicians, because they found her own knowledge of music was such as amateurs rarely possess.

THE "SWEETEST SPOT."

BY M. D. BRINE.

The sweetest spot in the house to me
Is the spot which holds my treasure wee.
What is my treasure? Come and see—
Only a blue-eyed baby.

Only a bundle of dimples and love,
Dropped in my arms from somewhere above;
A white-winged, cooing, and nestling dove,
Or—a bundle of mischief, maybe.

Now creeping here, now creeping there,
Calling me hither and everywhere;
Playing with sunbeams on the floor,
Cooing "a-gooing" over and o'er.
Climbing up and clambering down,
Bumping and bruising his tiny crown;
Sticking his toes through the dainty socks,
Soiling and tearing his dainty frocks,
Failing and crying and catching his breath,
Till Mamma is frightened almost to death;
Laughing and shouting in frolic and play,
Having a world of his nonsense to say;
Showing the dimples in cheek and in chin,
Where frolic and mischief peep out and in;
Asking for kisses and *getting* them, too,
On cheek and on chin and on eyes so blue;
Ready for play when the sunbeams rise,
Ready for sleep with the twilight skies;
And the sweetest spot in the house, you see,
Is the spot which holds my treasure wee—
My blue-eyed baby, my bundle of love,
My white-winged, cooing, and nestling dove;
And long may he find his haven of rest
In his mother's arms, on his mother's breast.

—*The Independent.*

THE LADY IN THE BLUE HAT.

A PARISIAN COMEDY OF ERRORS.

The Marquis de V. has an income of 200,000 francs a year. Hence the sun does not rise in his apartments until 11 o'clock. His valet superintends the brushing of his master's clothes with one eye, and reads the morning paper with the other. The bell of the outer door rings, and the valet, after the bell has rung two or three times, and he has heard the voice of one of his master's intimate friends outside, finally consents to go and open it.

"I have been making a racket here for twenty minutes," said the visitor, Paul de L., bounding into the room.

"Monsieur did well to knock," said Celestin, the valet, following him with a slow, dignified step. "He might have rung till the day of judgment, for my servant was brushing my master's clothes and I was reading my morning paper. It is remarkably bright and interesting this morning."

Paul called to the valet that he has come to persuade his master to commit matrimony, but finds in Celestin a foe to his project. For Celestin is afraid that a lady at the head of the house will either dismiss him or give him something to do. So Paul asks to be shown to the apartment of his friend.

The valet knocks directly at the door of his master's bedroom.

"Who's there?" he asks.

"I, monsieur," said the valet; "I have come to announce the arrival of Monsieur Paul."

"Paul! Let him come in! Paul!" he cried, in a louder tone, "why didn't you come in? What are you putting on all that style with me for?"

"I have come to talk about matrimony," said Paul, entering.

"Matrimony! thunder!" cried Mederic, bouncing out of bed. "You go and order breakfast," he cried to the valet. "I'll need all the strength I can muster; as for you, Paul, don't lisp a word of your outlandish idea until we are fairly seated at the table."

"This looks bad," said the viscount to himself.

"That's all right," said Celestin the valet, casting a triumphant glance at Paul.

During breakfast Paul fairly spread himself in cracking up marriage. He proved conclusively that it stood in the first rank of civil contracts, and was altogether the most admirable of the sacraments of the church As he listened to himself he became infatuated with his own eloquence, in fact he soared at times to almost inaccessible heights, and Mederic disputed his arguments with considerable ingenuity. After an hour or two of this sort of thing Paul exclaimed, "Let's get down to business. We ought to have begun with it. I have a cousin who is a widow. She has such blind confidence in me that she is willing to accept any one I'll pick out as a husband for her."

"I don't want her."

"She's a pearl."

"Not any pearls for me, thank you."

"She's an angel."

"All the same to me."

"She's young and pretty."

"What of it?"

"She's rich and well-educated."

"That's none of my business."

"Sunday she'll attend morning mass at Saint Roch. She'll be at the right of the pulpit and she'll wear a blue hat with white trimmings.—Go and see her."

"No! I."

"If she don't fix you at the very first glance I'll never say another word."

"You've already said too much."

"I won't stir until you promise to go there Sunday."

"Well—I'll—go—but what good will that do you?"

"You'll be charmed."

"I'd like to bet on it."

"I'd be betting on a certainty."

"What's this treasure's name?"

"I'll tell you when you've seen her—that is, if the first sight of her does the business for you."

Meredic was at the church door at the time appointed, looked in and saw nobody answering the description. But as he turned away he met in the church porch a charming woman whose hat seemed to him to be blue with white trimmings, or was it not rather white with blue trimmings? He saw lace, gauze, white satin, blue tulle and white silk capriciously tangled together—was this a blue hat? One needed to be more than a man to decide the question. The lady took a seat at the left of the pulpit.

"That settles it," said Mederic. "Paul is right. She is very good looking. I'd like to know her name and where she lives."

It seems as if that gentleman were following me," said the lady in the blue hat, as she entered a moderately pretentious house on Algiers street after the service.

Mederic learned from the porter's wife that the blue-hatted woman had been a widow three years, and her name was Arabella P—— de B., that she had lodgings on the fourth flight above the basement, which, it must be admitted was hard to distinguish from the fifth story. Almost before he knew it he was ringing the bell of her apartments and had been admitted. As he waited he began to cast about for some pretext for waiting on her. He decided not to mention Paul's name until forced to do so. At that moment the door opened.

"Madame Arabella!" stammered Mederic, bowing.

"I am she," replied the lady, who seemed even prettier without the blue hat.

After a prolonged silence Mederic began:

"I have—come—I have—come—"

"Oh, I understand," exclaimed Madame Arabella, vivaciously; "You are the professor of German, and you have come on the recommendation of my friend, Madame Delattre. I beg pardon for not having aided you a little in introducing yourself. What hour can you devote to my daughter's instruction?"

"Any hour you like," he replied, bent on keeping up the romantic adventure, even to undertaking lessons in German, of which he didn't know a single word.

"Are you free from nine to ten?"

"I am at liberty at all times—I would say, my pupils have already gone for the summer into the country," he replied, perceiving that he was talking like a fool.

"I can, then, without taking too much liberty, ask you to come any day at any hour?"

"Exactly so, madame."

"Madame Delattre has been paying you, I think, $10 for fifteen lessons. I will give twice that for thirty."

"Your kindness quite overwhelms me, madame."

"To-morrow, then, sir."

"To-morrow."

"At nine."

"Farewell, madame."

"Good day, sir."

The Marquis bowed respectfully and went out.

Arrived at home the Marquis dispatched a note to his friend Paul, telling him not to say another word about or to the lady in the blue hat without his permission.

Madame Arabella presented her little pink and white daughter, about six years old, to her "professor." Mederic kissed her forehead, made her recite the first chapter of the French grammar, and taught her a few words of the Flemish dialect, which they speak in the cities of French Flanders. These words, hard as rocks, raised the "goose flesh" on the lady in the blue hat, who assisted at her daughter's first lesson, dressed in negligé costume, which became her exquisite beauty. He discovered that she was as sweet as honey, and all who lived with her positively adored her. At a quarter to eleven she was obliged to dismiss him, which she did, as she did everything, with charming grace.

At the second lesson he discovered that she had an arm whiter than snow, and a neck delicately poised on her breast and shoulders, and she came and went in his presence as if he were not a man. He was intoxicated with pleasure, in spite of a cloud which mistook him for a teacher of languages.

At the appointed hour for the third lesson, his pupil had not returned from her bath. The "professor" was requested to wait. The lady in the blue hat was singing in the adjoining parlor, when he discovered that she had the voice of Patti, the method of Madame Carvalho and the soul of Frezzolini. Pretty soon the little girl came in, the lesson in German began and the singing stopped. Mederic was already fond of his little pupil, but just then he could have sent her away to Peru or even to China. His bad humor melted like snow before the sun the moment her mother entered the room.

At the fourth lesson the Marquis discovered that Madame Arabella was well acquainted with matters women are not in the habit of bothering their heads with. That Charles X was not the son of Charles IX. The next lesson proved to him that she had a pretty fair tincture of geography in her education. At least she knew where the handsome crystal dishes that litter up the cupboards are made—that the manufacturing corporations of Lyons sell handsome silk dresses, and the "India Company" beautiful laces. He discovered subsequently that she had the most delicate tact, for she asked him if he would like a part of his pay in advance, since his pupils were all in the country.

"I have the money now," she hastened to add, as he forgot himself and stared at her like a lout, "and it will be more convenient for me to give 50 francs now than 100 at the end of the month."

He also perceived with great pleasure that she had a taste for his conversation. After his "lesson" he was domiciled at her table, chatting with her, holding his little "pupil" on his knee. She knew that there was such a thing as the Revue des Deux Mondes in existence. She had elegant taste in jewels, loved the pictures of the best masters, had a passionate enthusiasm for whatever was good, noble and beautiful. All these disco